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AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

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10 October 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 10 October 2011

TREASURY

Tax Agreement (Switzerland)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): On 6 October the Government signed an agreement with the Swiss confederation on co-operation on tax matters. The agreement seeks to tackle tax evasion by UK residents through the use of Swiss financial services. It will clear up past tax liabilities through the imposition of a significant one-off levy, safeguard future revenues through a new withholding tax on investment returns, and expand the powers of HM Revenue and Customs to find out about Swiss assets.

The text of the agreement has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on the HM Revenue and Customs' website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Work of the Department (Conference Recess)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I would like to update hon. Members on the main items of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose for conference recess on 15 September.

Delivering better services

Under the last Administration, thanks to policies engineered in Whitehall, millions of homes saw cuts to their local rubbish collections. Weekly rubbish collections are the most visible of all front-line services and I believe every household in England has a basic right to have their rubbish collected every week.

In June 2011, the Government review of waste policy in England stated:

> "The Government will be working with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle, and to tackle measures which encourage councils specifically to cut the scope of collections".

On 30 September, my Department announced a new fund of up to £250 million to support councils to deliver weekly collections of household waste. The new weekly collections support scheme will support councils which switch from fortnightly to better weekly collections, and will support weekly collection councils which wish to keep and improve the weekly service they offer, such as through better procurement, new technologies and reward schemes like Recyclebank and others.

Councils will be able to bid individually or in consortiums, and with the private sector, where that increases value for money. In order to encourage the most innovative and locally tailored solutions, authorities will be able to bid for a mix of revenue and capital funding.

In due course, I will make a further statement on the detail of this scheme, and the details for inviting councils to submit innovative bids for funding. This initiative will help councils deliver better weekly collections, and in the process make it easier for families to go green and improve local amenity and local environment. It also builds on the abolition of bin taxes through the Localism Bill and our plans to abolish unfair bin fines introduced under the last Administration.

Helping local families

Under the last Administration, while bin collections halved for many homes, across the country council tax more than doubled. In 2011-12, the coalition Government introduced a council tax freeze, which was taken up by all participating councils.

On 3 October, the my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced £805 million support to help freeze council tax bills for a further year. The support for local authorities, on top of the existing freeze, means that taxpayers living in an average band D home in England could save up to £72 compared to a 5% rise in council tax. In addition to providing real help to households in difficult times this provides a positive contribution to those local authorities who wish to keep council tax down while protecting vital front-line services.

I will shortly make a written statement setting out the provisions for English local authorities and my officials will then write to the authorities with full details of the scheme for 2012-13, including providing an indicative breakdown of estimated grants to help local authorities with their budget planning.

Improving transparency and accountability

Transparency is at the core of delivering efficient and accountable Government. On 29 September, my Department published the final code of recommended practice for local authorities on data transparency. The code of practice calls on local authorities such as councils and fire and rescue services to shine a light on every part of their business, from employees' salaries over £58,200 and details of all their contracts and tenders to details of grants to voluntary organisations, spending data and the locations of public land and building assets.

Subject to consultation, Ministers will consider making the code a legally binding requirement to ensure authorities are fully accountable to the people they serve. The coalition Government have abolished top-down inspection and increased local autonomy making local accountability more important than ever. Central Government have a role in ensuring that local people can exercise their right to know how their money is being spent and have the information they need to question that spending. Decentralisation and a robust local democracy needs greater local accountability.

On 5 September, I informed the House that I had asked the Audit Commission to outsource its audit work from next year, as the first step towards disbanding the Commission and introducing a new, decentralised audit regime which will allow local authorities to appoint their own auditors. Following careful consideration of the options, we determined that outsourcing was likely to offer the best value for money for the taxpayer. In line with our commitment to transparency, on 10 October my Department published on its website a summary of the independent report we commissioned to inform our decision.

In September and October my Department published two further groups of reports presenting the findings from research projects commissioned by the previous Administration. The reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements. We are publishing these documents in the interests of transparency. The first group was published on 29 September and relates to immigration; a summary of the reports and their cost to taxpayers can be found online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/legacyresearchimmigration1

The second group, published on 6 October relates to housing; a summary of the reports and their cost to taxpayers can be found online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/newsroom/legacyresearchhousing

Ensuring fairness for council workers and taxpayers

The cost of local government pensions to the taxpayer has risen from £1.8 billion in 1997 to £6 billion in 2009-10 increasing burdens on council tax—and in turn, hitting pensioners the hardest. In the light of changing demographics, this growing burden is not sustainable or fair on the taxpayer. Moreover, Lord Hutton's report sets out why public sector pensions need to be reformed to more fairly protect taxpayers.

On 7 October, my Department published a consultation that proposes how to deliver the £900 million of savings required by the spending review 2010 to the local government pension scheme in England and Wales by 2014-15.

The paper proposes a progressively phased increase in employees' contribution tariff from April 2012 that would raise an additional £450 million, or 1.5% of pay, and a change in the accrual rate from April 2013 to raise an additional £450 million, or 1.5% of pay. This provides a balance between increasing employee contributions and adjusting the accrual rates while making the necessary savings to better protect the taxpayer.

To ensure the scheme continues to be an attractive scheme to all existing and future members. Any increases in contribution rate will protect low earners, with no increase for those earning less than £15,000, and mean high earners pay in proportionally more reflecting their more generous pensions.

We will continue to engage with local government and trade unions throughout the consultation as they have a key role to play. We hope all parties will take the time to consider these proposals in a constructive manner.

Building a better Britain

We believe that creating the conditions for sustainable growth and thriving economies begins at a local level, with local control and responsibility and local investment.

On 3 October, the coalition Government invited the Lancashire and Hull and Humber local enterprise partnerships to develop proposals for two new enterprise zones. This is in response to the recent announcement by BAE systems on their sites in Brough, Warton and Samlesbury. The zones will benefit from simplified planning rules, super-fast broadband and tax breaks for new business for the next four years. The Government will work closely with these local enterprise partnerships to develop strong and viable proposals for enterprise zones that will accelerate local growth, generate hundreds of jobs and attract many new start up firms.

On 10 October, my Department published a consultation on reforming the community infrastructure levy to provide that a proportion of the money raised from development will go directly to the neighbourhood where it takes place. Local people will have the freedom to spend this money to deal with the demands that new development places on their community, for example by providing facilities such as parks, playgrounds and community centres or new and improved transport.

The levy will also continue to be used to contribute to larger infrastructure projects across areas like new roads, transport, or hospitals. Developers will benefit from a system that ensures they know upfront how much they will be expected to contribute towards the infrastructure needed to support new development and communities will benefit because they will be able to decide for themselves how the demands placed on their area are best addressed.

The Government are also moving ahead with plans to release disused public land and empty offices with enough capacity to build up to 100,000 new homes by 2015. On 5 October, four Departments with significant landholdings published their strategies that set out how their formerly used land and property has the capacity to deliver more than 50,000 desperately needed new homes.

Over the summer these departments have moved swiftly to identify land and property that could be released for new development. This builds on the 11,000 housing starts that will be achieved through the release of land owned by the Homes and Communities Agency. The amount of previously-developed land owned by the public sector is more than twice the size of Leicester, and its development could support as many as 200,000 construction and related jobs.

At the same time, my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Local Government announced fresh steps to help communities across the country reclaim and develop hundreds of acres of unused public sector land and buildings, which could be used to deliver the schemes communities want to see in their areas. Members of the public will now be able to request a sale of public land and buildings by filling in a simple and user-friendly form. It will replace a system that is so obscure and restrictive that it has hardly ever been used, with only one successful application in the past 13 years.

The improved process for requesting the sale of public land and property will be one way of applying for land to be released by Government Departments, and will also apply to land owned by councils and other public bodies.

Promoting home ownership and affordable housing

The Government also want to support people to meet their aspirations of home ownership. Since 1980, nearly 2 million social homes have been bought by their occupants under Right to Buy, improving social mobility and building mixed communities. The Right to Buy gave something back to families who worked hard, paid their rent and played by the rules. It allowed them to do up their home, change their front door, improve their garden—without getting permission from the council. It gave people a sense of pride and ownership not just in their home, but in their street and neighbourhood. Yet under the last Administration. Right to Buy discounts were cut significantly.

On 2 October, the Prime Minister announced the intention to raise Right to Buy discounts to a level which will make the scheme attractive to tenants across England. The receipt from the Right to Buy will be used to pay off the housing debt and build more housing for affordable rent—for every home bought under Right to Buy, a new affordable home will be built, over and above our existing plans. Further details of this will be set out in the forthcoming housing strategy. The reform of the housing revenue account system is and remains a coalition priority and the timetable for the reform remains unchanged.

Tackling the 700,000 empty homes across the country is a top priority for my Department. On 20 September, the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), announced more powers for community groups to bring empty homes back into use. Community and voluntary organisations will be able to bid for a part of £100 million of Government funding for pioneering housing schemes that will ensure empty properties are lived in again. This will also help to provide more affordable housing. The coalition Government are already providing more incentives for councils to bring empty homes back into use, including them in the new homes bonus. In one year of the new homes bonus just under 16,000 previously empty properties have been brought back into use.

My Department will also consult in due course on plans to allow councils local discretion to introduce a council tax premium on homes in their area that have been empty for more than two years, to provide a stronger incentive to get the homes back into productive use and remove the blight from such properties on local neighbourhoods.

The coalition Government will stand by and help families who work hard and play by the rules, while tackling the small number of people who abuse the system. In this context, it has been estimated that there could be 6,000 households living in this taxpayer-funded social housing with incomes greater than £100,000. This is not fair to the millions of people in genuine housing need and those who work hard, earn a modest income, yet still remain on a housing waiting list. On 4 October, the Minister for Housing and Local Government indicated that he will be looking at introducing a "pay to stay" scheme for social tenants on incomes greater than £100,000 who want to stay in those properties. A consultation on this will be published in due course.

I am placing in the Library copies of the press notices and papers associated to this statement.

DEFENCE

Independent Review of Single Source Pricing Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): On 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS, I announced that Lord Currie of Marylebone would chair an independent review of the regulations used by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in single source, non-competitive, procurement, the so-called Yellow Book. Lord Currie has now submitted his independent report, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. I would like to thank Lord Currie and his team for the report. The MOD and other interested parties will now consider his recommendations.

The Government welcome Lord Currie's recommendations. In broad terms his report focuses on achieving a more open relationship between MOD and defence industry, ensuring standardised high-quality cost data are provided by contractors to the MOD. This will help ensure greater transparency of costs and should improve the MOD's ability to negotiate realistic prices. Industry will be incentivised to deliver efficiency by the opportunity to make greater returns should they deliver cost savings for the MOD. Making industry more efficient should not only achieve value for money to the taxpayer, but also lead to a more competitive role for the UK defence industry in the export market.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will be offered fewer data reporting requirements and a simplified profit rate process. Larger contractors will provide an annual statement on how they have engaged SMEs in their supply chain.

Lord Currie recommends these arrangements are overseen by an independent Single Source Regulations Office (SSRO) which would replace the existing review board to provide stronger oversight over both MOD and industry.

The Department will now consider the report's recommendations as part of the next stage of consultation, which will run until 6 January 2012. Responses to all aspects of the report are welcome, but the Government particularly seek views on the merits of the establishment of the SSRO or possible alternatives such as the strengthening of the existing cost assurance and analysis service. A final report will then be produced which we intend to publish in early 2012 when I shall report back to the House.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Boundary Commission for Wales (Appointments)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): On 4 October 2011 Mr Paul Loveluck CBE and Professor Robert McNabb were appointed as members of the Boundary Commission for Wales (BCW), following the resignation of two former members of that commission earlier this year.

Mr Loveluck's career has included spells as president of the National Museum and Libraries of Wales, CEO of the Wales Tourist Board, and CEO of the Countryside Council for Wales. Professor McNabb is professor of economics at Cardiff university, a fellow of the Higher Education Authority and Learned Society of Wales, and a former dean of Cardiff Business School.

The appointments are for five years and made following a fair and open public appointments process competition, in accordance with the code of practice published by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Ministers made the appointments in line with the recommendations of a panel which comprised a Cabinet Office official, the deputy chair of the BCW (Mr Justice Lloyd Jones) and an independent assessor approved by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The Boundary Commission for Wales has stated that it will publish its initial proposals for the 2013 review of parliamentary constituencies in January 2012 and that it expects to complete the 2013 review within the deadline stipulated by Parliament. The Government made the replacement appointments as quickly as possible and will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure there is no risk to this deadline.

EDUCATION

New Schools

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I will be making an announcement on new schools this afternoon via an oral statement in the House of Commons. A list of new schools will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses to coincide with this oral statement.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Global Abolition of the Death Penalty

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): I wish to make the House aware of the 2011 update to HMG's strategy on global abolition of the death penalty and provide an update on progress which the Government have made against the strategy since it was publicly launched on 11 October 2010.

Promoting human rights and democracy is a priority for the UK Government. It is the long-standing policy of the UK to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. We believe that its use undermines human dignity; that there is no conclusive evidence of its deterrent value; and that any miscarriage of justice leading to its imposition is irreversible and irreparable.

Since the publication of the "Strategy for Abolition of the Death Penalty", the Government have raised the death penalty bilaterally with a number of our priority countries at both official and ministerial level in Asia, Africa, the middle east, the USA, Europe and the Caribbean.

We have had some success through our project work. The British High Commission in Uganda is currently supporting a project which aims to provide access to justice for those who have been on death row for over three years, and through this we have funded work by an organisation which has applied to the courts for those on death row to have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. The FCO is also currently funding a project in the middle east and north Africa region covering Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan, funding workshops which have provided others with the tools to advocate for abolition. This project has also led to the publication of a book that shows the death penalty is not implicit in sharia law. Through the funding of projects in Commonwealth Caribbean and Commonwealth African countries, we have worked to achieve further restrictions on the use of the death penalty, for example in June the mandatory death penalty for felony murder was ruled unconstitutional in Trinidad and Tobago as a result of one of these projects. In July the FCO funded a regional workshop in the Caribbean, providing training to 70 mental health professionals from across the Caribbean, which should lead to improved mental health assessments for those facing the death penalty in the region. In Kenya we supported a regional seminar on the abolition of the death penalty, which took place in April, and we are also currently supporting project work in Nigeria and China.

Consular staff in London and at our overseas missions continue to work hard, in collaboration with the NGO Reprieve, and local lawyers to make progress on the cases of British nationals facing the death penalty. For each case, we have agreed with the key stakeholders our handling strategy, to ensure that our representations are targeted and appropriate. In recent months we have made ministerial and head of mission representations on cases in the US, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan.

We have also worked with the EU to create an international voice for abolition. We have raised the death penalty with a number of countries, through statements, dialogues and project work. We have also raised many cases of third country nationals who are facing the death penalty.

In November 2010 the UN General Assembly resolution on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty was adopted with record support. As part of an EU campaign, the UK lobbied several states to vote in favour of the resolution or at least move from voting against to abstention. We have also made recommendations to several countries on the death penalty through the universal periodic review process since October 2010.

We have welcomed a number of other positive developments over the past year. Illinois became the 16th US state to abolish the death penalty in March, and in China we welcomed the return of the power of final review to the Supreme People's Court and the reduction of the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty from 68 to 55 in February. The international momentum towards abolition continues to grow and the Government will continue to work to make progress against their strategy in order to achieve their ultimate objective of global abolition of the death penalty.

A copy of the updated strategy to 2015 will be placed in the Library of the House and published on the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk) on 10 October.

Sino-British Joint Declaration (Hong Kong)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The latest report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today. Copies have been laid in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk). The report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2011. I commend the report to the House.

HEALTH

Southern Cross Healthcare and Social Care Market

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I wish to update the House on Southern Cross and the Government's wider response to the issues which this case has raised.

On 30 September, Southern Cross announced that 250 of the care homes in which it operates have been transferred to new care operators. This represents one third of all of Southern Cross's homes, involving 249 homes in England and one in Scotland. In each case, the transfer was scrutinised and approved by the relevant national regulator. For the time being, Southern Cross will continue to provide care services in the remainder of its homes.

Two further transfers of homes are expected in October and when the transfers are concluded Southern Cross will no longer be a provider of care services.

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services is maintaining a list of Southern Cross's care homes with information on plans for transfer to alternative providers, as well as contact information for residents, relatives and any other interested parties. This is updated weekly and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/09/transfer-of-southern-cross-healthcare-to-new-operators/

This first set of transfers is an important step towards the consensual and orderly winding down of the company. Throughout, it has been the Government's overriding concern to secure the welfare and safety of the residents in Southern Cross's care. This transfer and the ones to follow should ensure that this is achieved, with minimal impact on the residents of these homes and clear arrangements to ensure continuity of care.

We will continue to monitor closely the remaining steps to the full transfer of all homes, and will work closely with all interested parties, but I am encouraged that those involved in the restructuring negotiations have put in place the necessary agreements to secure a successful outcome.

As noted by the National Audit Office in its recent report on the social care market "Oversight of user choice and provider competition in care markets", the case of Southern Cross has highlighted the risks associated with a large care provider facing financial difficulty.

In my previous written ministerial statement to Parliament, I said the Government would shortly be publishing a discussion paper on the issue. This paper has been published today, and forms a part of the Government's wider engagement exercise on care and support reform, as reported to the House on 15 September 2011.

The paper considers the issues raised by the risk of financial failure in large providers and seeks views on service continuity and/or whether new measures are necessary. It sets out what the Government think is the key objective of any reform, and outlines the key considerations which need to be balanced when coming to a view on what measures may be appropriate. It then lists a range of possible options that could be pursued, drawing on experience in other sectors and considering both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches. This includes possible roles for Monitor, as allowed for in the Health and Social Care Bill currently before the House. The paper invites comments on these options, but also welcomes other ideas. At this stage the Government have not formed a firm view on what would be the best approach. They want to take this opportunity to hear different views, before settling their position ahead of next year's White Paper.

"Oversight of the Social Care Market; Discussion Paper" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Changes in Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government are today laying before the House a statement of changes in the immigration rules. The first change will allow the UK Border Agency to refuse entry or stay in the UK to those subject to immigration control with outstanding unpaid NHS charges of £1,000 or more. This change will be phased in from 1 November.

On 18 March 2011, I announced the Government's response to the 2010 consultation on refusing entry of stay to NHS debtors and signalled my intention to lay a new rules change in respect of outstanding NHS charges. This will deter overseas visitors from misusing the NHS and encourage overseas visitors to meet their obligations to pay for the NHS services that they use. The UK Border Agency will continue to work closely with the Department of Health on a range of measures to prevent health tourism.

I can also confirm that we are publishing the impact assessment for the changes in respect of outstanding NHS charges on the UK Border Agency website and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the House Library.

A minor technical change to the evidential requirements for settlement is also being made which will oblige economic migrants to provide supporting documents to show they are earning a minimum amount before they are granted settlement.

I am also making minor changes to rule 317 on parents, grandparents and other dependent relatives to improve the drafting and transparency of the rule. Consequential changes will be made to rule 319(v) which deals with the dependent relatives of refugees and those with humanitarian protection.

We are also making some technical corrections to the rules for other dependent relatives of a refugee or beneficiary of humanitarian protection. We are deleting a provision in the rules that requires an applicant to be refused if he or she has one or more unspent convictions within the meaning of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 when they apply for entry clearance or further leave to remain in this route. This provision was included in error, as Government policy is that indefinite leave to remain (ILR) should be refused to people with unspent convictions, but not that an application for entry clearance or limited leave to remain should be refused. We are also clarifying the existing rules to ensure that other family members who wish to switch into the further leave to remain or settlement route in this category can do so. The amendments will also affect the criteria for granting settlement as we are clarifying the need for an applicant to have valid leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom so that those who have overstayed do not qualify under the rules.

We are also making minor, technical changes to the immigration rules on students, including: to reflect that Education Scotland is the new name for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education; to amend the definition of UK-recognised body to confirm that this includes foundation programme offices for post-graduate doctors and dentists; to clarify the definition of who benefits from the streamlined application process for tier 4. A minor correction is being made to the rules laid on 6 April to make provision for spouses and civil partners of a British citizen or settled person in the United Kingdom in line with the policy intention relating to in-country switching.

Minor changes are also being made to the immigration rules relating to unmarried and same-sex partners of a British citizen or settled person in the United Kingdom to enable in-country switching into this route, reflecting the policy intention.

The last change relates to the Olympic and Paralympic games. The UK needs to manage effectively the entry and stay of persons accredited for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games such as athletes, umpires, technical staff and broadcasters and other individuals before, during and after the games in order to deliver a safe and secure games. Such persons are referred to as games family members.

In order to do this, and fulfil contractual and agreements reached with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), it is necessary to make two sets of changes to the UK's immigration rules.

The first change amends appendix 1 to the immigration rules by exempting certain holders of the Olympic Identity and Accreditation Card (OIAC) and Paralympic Identity and Accreditation Card (PIAC) from visa requirements during the accreditation period of the games, which runs from 30 March 2012 to 8 November 2012, providing the card is presented with a valid national passport or other document satisfactorily establishing nationality and identity, and providing the requirements set out in the statement of changes to the immigration rules have been met.

The second change amends the visitor category of the immigration rules by creating two new categories of visitor—an "Olympic or Paralympic games family member visitor" and an "Olympic or Paralympic games family member child visitor". Leave in these two visitor categories will only be available during the accreditation period of the games to games family members who meet the requirements of the immigration rules. Individuals granted leave to enter or remain as an Olympic or Paralympic games family member visitor and Olympic or Paralympic games family member child visitor, during the period of 30 March 2012 to 8 May 2012, will be admitted for up to six months, while those who are granted leave to enter or remain during the period of 9 May 2012 to 8 November 2012 will be admitted up until, and including, 8 November 2012. In both cases conditions prohibiting recourse to public funds and restricting employment to employment only related to Olympic and Paralympic games, will be attached to the leave.

These changes to the immigration rules will help the UK facilitate the entry and stay of games family members in the UK during the games while also allowing the UK Border Agency to maintain a robust immigration control.

We previously informed Parliament, in the explanatory memoranda accompanying the Immigration (Provision of Physical Data) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Amendment) Order 2011 and during their debate in the House of Commons and House of Lords, that we would be amending the Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) Order 1993 and Channel Tunnel (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1994 to enable the collection of fingerprints and facial images from visa nationals accredited for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games at the UK's train juxtaposed controls in France and Belgium. The aforementioned 2011 regulations enable biometric information to be taken from persons accredited for the Olympic and Paralympic games who would usually be required to apply for a visa and therefore have their biometric information taken as visa nationals but as part of the host city contract Her Majesty's Government gave a commitment that in specified circumstances there would be no requirement for certain holders of an accreditation card to apply for a visa before travelling to the UK. The amendments to the channel tunnel orders are no longer considered necessary as the 2011 regulations, when read with the provisions of the channel tunnel orders, provide us with the legal power to make the collection at the UK's train juxtaposed controls in France and Belgium.

SCOTLAND

Emergency Towing Vessels

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore): I am pleased to confirm to the House that the Scotland Office is now leading efforts to secure a long-term replacement for the emergency towing vessels (ETV) service in waters surrounding the Northern Isles and Western Isles.

It has been agreed that interim funding will be provided from the UK Government to support the service for up to three months while this work continues. The contract will be managed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and every effort will be made to ensure value-for-money for the public purse.

The Scotland Office, drawing on technical and operational advice from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Scottish stakeholders from the UK ETV working group, will lead efforts to broker a long-term replacement for the service. Time scales are tight and this work will be progressed as a matter of urgency. I will convene a meeting of a Scottish ETV working group on Monday 17 October, comprising representatives of Highlands and Islands local authorities. Marine Scotland, KIMO (Kommunenes Internasjonale

Miljøorganisasjon) and other interested parties. An announcement will be made by the end of the year notifying the House of the outcome of this work.

TRANSPORT

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to parliamentary question 58263 on 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 20W, about rolling stock. The variable track access charges that were contained in the table were incorrect. The corrected table is reproduced below.

			£
	Maintenance	*Fuel*	*Variable Track Access Charge*
Bi-mode			
When under diesel power	2.74	1.72	0.63
When under electric power	1.78	1.34	[1]
Electric	1.78	1.32	0.57

[1] Indicates brace.

WALES

Incident at Gleision Colliery

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): On Thursday 17 September, a retaining wall holding back a body of water collapsed in Taren Gleision drift mine near Pontardawe in the Swansea Valley. Of the seven men working in the mine three men were able to escape, but all of the remaining four miners tragically died. The four trapped miners were named as Charles Breslin, 62; David Powell, 50; and Garry Jenkins, 39, from the Swansea Valley; and Phillip Hill, 45, of Neath.

It is a distressing time for the families and friends of those who lost their lives and I send my sincere condolences to them. I would also like to pay tribute to the efforts of the whole community and the organisations, including the Red Cross and the WRVS, who provided support to all concerned during what were very difficult days.

The emergency services and mine rescue workers involved in the search and rescue operation carried out their work in incredibly difficult and dangerous circumstances. We are deeply indebted to them for their tireless determination and dedication.

The Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat provided full co-ordination in the immediate aftermath ensuring all parts of Government with a role to play were fully appraised of the situation on the ground and of any actions that needed to be taken locally and centrally. We worked closely with the Welsh Government in the initial stages of the operation. The right hon. Member for Neath (Mr Hain) was present as events unfolded and my office worked closely with him in the immediate aftermath.

The South Wales branch of the National Union of Mineworkers set up the Swansea Valley Miners Appeal Fund as a trust to administer the donations to support the families of those involved in the disaster. His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, has agreed to be the Royal patron of the fund. The Wales Office worked with the Charity Commission to assist the fund in gaining its charitable status, which was confirmed on 26 September. Until this point the Wales Office has agreed to reimburse the appeal fund for the funding it did not receive from gift aid contributions while charitable status was being sought.

South Wales police are currently the primary lead for the investigation and are working closely with the Health and Safety Executive. The gathering of evidence has been extremely difficult and dangerous. This evidence will need to be reviewed and the Government will continue to do all they can to facilitate a full investigation.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments Scheme 2011-12

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce that regulations to amend the cold weather payment scheme will be laid later today. The changes will come into force on 1 November this year, in time for the beginning of the winter period.

Following advice from the meteorological office the amendments will introduce four new weather stations to the scheme for winter 2011-12 and withdraw the current stations at Dundrennan, St Catherine's Point and West Freugh. As a result of the changes the postcodes that are currently linked to the withdrawn stations will be re-assigned to different weather stations. The four new weather stations are:

Aboyne
Auchincruive
Bainbridge
Threave

The new stations have been chosen to maintain weather station to postcode links that are at least as representative as the current arrangement.

I have written to each Member who made representations about the administration of the scheme last winter to make them aware of the advice from the meteorological office.

Cold weather payments are separate from, and in addition to, winter fuel payments.

The amendments resulted from the Department's annual review of the cold weather payments scheme. The review drew on expert advice from the meteorological office and took account of representations from benefit claimants and Members of Parliament.

For winter 2011-12 the cold weather payment rate will continue to be £25 for each seven-day period of very cold weather.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

(3 October 2011)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 3 October 2011 in Luxembourg. Andy Lebrecht, UK deputy permanent representative to the European Union, represented the UK.

The first item on the agenda was a policy debate on the future shape of the European social fund (ESF) and its role in the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. The Commission confirmed that it would publish its draft regulation on the ESF in 2014-2020 later in the week. The presidency stressed that it was vital to strengthen the role of the ESF in cohesion policy. Member states agreed that the ESF should contribute in helping to achieve Europe 2020 targets and that ESF should be more efficient and targeted at the most disadvantaged. For the UK, Andy Lebrecht intervened to stress the need to focus EU resources on the less developed member states, to improve value for money, and that ESF should add value to national investment in employment and skills. The UK also raised concerns about the effectiveness and added value of the European globalisation fund.

The second item on the agenda was a report from the presidency on preparations for the tripartite social summit which will take place on 17 October 2011.

The Council also adopted Council conclusions on the role of voluntary work in social policy and managing demographic changes.

Under any other business, a debate on the EU Aid for the Needy scheme took place. France and Slovenia had circulated a joint paper asking Employment Ministers to lobby their agriculture counterparts to agree a short-term continuation of the programme, which would allow food to be sourced from the open market as well as from increasingly limited intervention stocks, and to introduce an element of co-financing. The Commission reiterated its support for the scheme and indicated that it would table a revised proposal with a dual cohesion and agriculture legal base, reverting to 100% EU funding. A number of member states expressed support for the scheme and the Commission's efforts to find a solution. The UK, along with Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden stressed that measures such as these should be delivered at national level. A Europe wide scheme raised competence issues and was not as effective as national measures. The presidency noted the positions in Council and would send a note on the discussions to the Agriculture Council.

The other items under any other business were reports on Polish presidency conferences and the EPSCO informal which took place in July. The presidency also reported on preparations for the first annual convention of the European platform against poverty and social exclusion which takes place in October. The French reported back on the G20 labour and employment Ministers which took place in Paris and the Germans reported back on the meeting of an informal ministerial group on employment and social policy which took place in Potsdam.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 11 October 2011

TREASURY

HM Revenue and Customs (Consultation)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): On Friday 7 October, HM Revenue and Customs published a consultation on the Social Security (Categorisation of Earners) Regulations 1978 in relation to lecturers, teachers, instructors or those in a similar capacity. Its purpose is to consult on HMRC's proposal to repeal this part of the regulations.

The consultation document is available on the HM Revenue and Customs website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Park Legacy Update

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): Further to the written statement made to the House on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 33WS, referring to the selection of the preferred bidder for the long-term lease of the Olympic stadium, my colleague the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill), the Mayor of London and I have today decided, as joint founder members of Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC), that the company should terminate the process for the disposal of the Olympic stadium with immediate effect.

The OPLC founder members have also agreed that the company should now explore alternative options in order to deliver the stadium in legacy, and take into account the commitments which have recently been made in support of the bid to host the World Athletics Championship in 2017.

This decision will remove the ongoing uncertainty and continuing delays in determining a sustainable legacy for this important part of the legacy of the Olympic park.

DEFENCE

Defence Vetting Agency: Removal of Agency Status

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): As part of the programme of work associated with defence reform within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) the Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) ceased to have the status of an executive agency from 1 October 2011.

The DVA was formed in April 1997 bringing together the four National Service Vetting (NSV) organisations serving each of the armed services and the MOD. Since that date the DVA has successfully delivered NSV services to the MOD and its industry contractors, and has also provided similar services to a wide range of other Government Departments. Today it is by far the larger of the two UK Government shared service providers of NSV.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence, announced on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, the intention to establish a new Defence Business Services (DBS) organisation, bringing together the delivery of a range of corporate service functions to support all areas of the Department from one organisation. The DBS was launched in July, and the NSV function undertaken by the DVA will be provided under a new business model renamed as DBS National Security Vetting.

This change in operating status will have no impact on the DVA's customers, and will deliver efficiencies and wider savings to Government. In particular, it will reinforce the DVA's ability to deliver planned business improvements from its new Cerberus IT system to drive up service to its internal and external customers.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Weightman Report (Fukushima)

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): Today I have deposited in the House the final report which I requested from the chief nuclear inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, on the events at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear site in March.

Fukushima changed the energy debate around the world. Questions were raised about the extent and safety of nuclear power and people rightfully wanted to know what happened, and whether it could happen again.

Safety is always our number one concern. We needed to understand the facts before making any decisions. That is why I asked the chief nuclear inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to look at what Fukushima means for nuclear energy in Britain, and what lessons can be learned.

Dr Weightman produced his interim report in May. It was evidence based, and prepared in close co-operation with international regulators. It confirmed that the UK's current safety regime is working, and that regulators and industry should continue to work together to make continuous improvements to nuclear safety.

The interim report also reassured us that new nuclear can be part of a low-carbon energy mix in the UK. Nuclear energy is important for our energy security now and we want it to be part of the mix in the future.

Dr Weightman's final report was submitted to me on 30 September, and I am presenting it to the House at the earliest possible opportunity.

I would like to thank Dr Weightman and his team for their hard work. This is a thorough and comprehensive report on the lessons that can be learned for the UK's nuclear industry. It will help ensure that our regulatory regime remains robust, and that the nuclear industry remains committed to continuous improvement for all existing and future facilities.

The final report expands on the interim report by providing additional information and evidence, widening the scope to include non-generation sites in the UK, such as Sellafield.

It provides background on how to mitigate against radioactive hazards; the differences between reactor technologies in Fukushima and the UK; and the differing approaches to nuclear safety and security in the UK, Japan and the wider world.

The report also sets out a timetable of events at Fukushima, and describes the work undertaken by Dr Weightman and his team.

One of the report's key findings is that the additional information received since the interim report, including from his own visit to Fukushima and the UK Office for Nuclear Regulation's own more detailed analysis, has reinforced the interim findings.

As the initial report made clear, the current regulatory safety framework in the UK is satisfactory. Dr Weightman sees no reason to curtail the operation of power plants or other nuclear facilities in the UK. He believes the industry has reacted responsibly and appropriately, displaying strong leadership for safety and safety culture.

The final report re-states these interim conclusions and recommendations. It also concludes that the UK practice of periodic safety reviews of licensed sites provides a robust means of ensuring continuous improvement in line with advances in technology and standards.

The final report also emphasises the need to continue the Sellafield legacy pond and silo clean-up with the utmost vigour and determination.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is making tangible, demonstrable progress in addressing these national priorities. It is the NDA's top priority, and we have ensured that their work in this area is not limited by funding constraints. Reduction of risk and hazard sits at the very heart of the NDA's mission.

Dr Weightman and his team are satisfied with the responses and actions initiated by Government and industry in response to the interim report.

The final report also re-states the recommendations from the interim report, adding additional detail where necessary. It focuses on areas that should be reviewed to determine whether there are further practicable improvements that can be made to enhance safety.

Dr Weightman has also recommended that regulators, Government and industry review:

the UK's ability to monitor and provide real-time information in an emergency;

the robustness of emergency control structures and systems; and

continue to promote high levels of safety culture, making use of the National Skills Academy for nuclear and other "nuclear professionalism" schemes.

The final report also confirms the advice given by Dr Weightman at the time of the interim report; namely that he saw no reason to revise the strategic advice on which the nuclear national policy statement was based, or any need to change present siting strategies for new nuclear power stations in the UK.

Dr Weightman's final recommendation is to invite reports on progress by June 2012, when he intends to report back on implementation lessons.

The European nuclear stress tests have been conducted in parallel to this process, and there are overlaps between the initial findings and the recommendations in Dr Weightman's reports. Stress testing will continue into next year, and both industry and the Office for Nuclear Regulation will continue to be involved. Dr Weightman's proposed supplementary report will include further details of the stress test.

Regulators and industry are also continuing to work together to take forward the generic design assessment process for new nuclear reactors, and have extended their timeline in order to take into account the findings in both the interim and final report. Regulators have stated that they hope to be in a position to take decision on the generic design assessment by the end of the year.

In conclusion, I welcome Dr Weightman's final report, and I encourage the regulators to work closely with industry and other partners to take the recommendations forward. The Government intend to respond to Dr Weightman's recommendations in more detail by the end of the year.

HEALTH

Choosing a Named Consultant-led Team (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am publishing the "Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control—Government response: choice of named consultant-led team" and associated guidance. The response, the contract implementation guidance and the impact assessment have been placed in the Library. Copies of the response are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

This is the response to the questions associated with the proposal to offer patients choice of named consultant-led team in "Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control—A consultation on proposals". The response to these questions is being published now to help the NHS plan for the next financial year. A fuller response covering all of the remaining questions in the greater choice and control consultation document will follow later this year.

This consultation sought views on the choice commitments first set out in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" (Cm 7881). The consultation period ran from 18 October 2010 until 14 January 2011 and I am delighted to report that hundreds of engagement activities were undertaken and 617 unique responses were received. We have heard from patients, service users, clinicians, care professionals, systems providers, voluntary sector organisations and many others. All these contributions have been analysed and have informed the ongoing development of our policy direction reflected in today's publication.

A significant majority of respondents supported our proposed approach to implementing proposals to offer patients a choice of named consultant-led team at referral as set out in the consultation document. A range of issues were also raised around the need for good quality information to support choice; the impacts on providers' ability to manage capacity and waiting times; and the development of specialist knowledge by consultant-led teams.

The issues raised in the responses to choice of named consultant-led team have been taken into account in drafting the contractual guidance published alongside this response, and the accompanying impact assessment.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Order Powers

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

The future of the control order regime

The Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIM) Bill, which makes provision for the abolition of control orders and their replacement with a new, less intrusive and more focused regime, is continuing its parliamentary passage. A copy of the Bill can be found on Parliament's web site. The home page for the Bill is:

http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/terrorismpreventionandinvestigationmeasures.html.

The control order system will continue to operate until its replacement is in force.

The Government's counter-terrorism and security powers review concluded that there may be exceptional circumstances where more stringent measures may be required to protect the public than those available under the TPIM Bill. Such circumstances would be a very serious terrorist risk that cannot be managed by any other means. The Government committed to preparing draft emergency legislation for introduction should such circumstances arise. The draft enhanced TPIM Bill was published on 1 September so that it can be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny.

The exercise of the control order powers in the last quarter

As explained in previous quarterly statements, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that the obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold Control Order Review Groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During the reporting period, one CORG was held in relation to some of the orders in force at the time. CORGs in relation to the remaining cases were held just before this reporting period. Other meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 June 2011 to 10 September 2011, no non-derogating control orders were made or served. Two control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act in this reporting period. One control order was revoked during this reporting period as it was no longer considered necessary. One control order, made in a previous quarter but never served, expired during this reporting period.

In total, as of 10 September, there were 11 control orders in force, all of which were in respect of British citizens. All of these control orders were non-derogating. One individual subject to a control order was living in the Metropolitan police district; the remaining individuals were living in other police force areas.

Three individuals were charged with breaching their control order obligations during this period.

During this reporting period, 76 modifications of control order obligations were made. Twenty-two requests to modify control order obligations were refused.

Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act provides a right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. Two appeals have been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act. A right of appeal is also provided by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order or to modify any obligation under their order. During this reporting period no appeals were lodged with the High Court under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act.

Seven judgments have been handed down in relation to control order cases during this reporting period; five by the High Court and two by the Court of Appeal.

On 13 June 2011 a judgment was handed down by the High Court in relation to the appeal brought by BG under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act. In *BG v. Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] EWHC 1478 (Admin), the High Court upheld the Secretary of State's decision.

On 18 July 2011 the High Court handed down a judgment following the Court review of the imposition of a control order under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. BF* [2011] EWHC 1878 (Admin), the High Court upheld the decision to make the control order.

On 22 July 2011, the High Court handed down a judgment in relation to an appeal by a controlled individual under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act. In *BM v. Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] EWHC 1969 (Admin), the High Court upheld the Secretary of State's decision.

The High Court handed down a further judgment on 25 July 2011 in relation to two individuals who were each subject to control orders for only a short period of time. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. CB and BP* [2011] EWHC 1990 (Admin), the Court ruled that it was appropriate for it to exercise its case management powers to, in effect, terminate the court review of the imposition of their control orders. The Court also ordered the discharge of the anonymity orders made in these cases. Abid NASEER (CB) and Faraz KHAN (BP) have been granted permission by the High Court to appeal the decision to terminate the Court proceedings.

On 29 July 2011 the High Court handed down a judgment following the Court review of the imposition of a control order under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. CD* [2011] EWHC 2087 (Admin), the High Court upheld the decision to make the control order.

The first judgment handed down by the Court of Appeal in this reporting period relates to the appeal brought by AM against the decision of the High Court to uphold his control order. In *AM v. Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] EWCA Civ 710, handed down on 21 June 2011, the Court of Appeal dismissed AM's appeal.

The Court of Appeal also handed down judgment in this reporting period in the context of the appeal brought by AH, an individual formerly subject to a control order. In *AH v. Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] EWCA Civ 787, handed down on 6 July 2011, the Court of Appeal dismissed AH's appeal.

Most full judgments are available at http://www.bailii.org/.

JUSTICE

Right of Access to a Lawyer in Criminal Proceedings and Right to Communicate upon Arrest (Opt-in Decision on Draft EU Directive)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Government have decided not to opt in at this stage to the directive on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and on the right to communicate upon arrest. The Government have taken this decision in accordance with the commitment in the coalition agreement, which states that we will approach legislation in the area of criminal justice on a case-by-case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting Britain's civil liberties and preserving the integrity of our criminal justice system.

The Government agree that a European directive in this area is a good idea in principle. We believe that it could benefit UK nationals who become subject to the criminal justice systems of other member states. Such a directive could also build greater trust and confidence among the competent authorities of all EU member states who may be expected to accept and act upon decisions or judgments made in other member states. However, a number of provisions in the proposal, as published by the European Commission, go substantially beyond the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and would have an adverse impact on our ability to investigate and prosecute offences effectively and fairly. Given the extent of our concerns on the detail of this directive, we cannot at this stage be confident that all of them will be addressed in the process of negotiations.

Given the importance we attach to the principles of this directive, we intend to work very closely with our European partners to develop a text which takes greater account of the practical realities of the investigation and prosecution of crime and reflects the flexibility which member states need in order to meet the requirements of the ECHR in a way which is consistent with the nature of their justice systems. In the event our concerns about the initial draft of the directive are satisfactorily dealt with during the negotiations, we will give serious thought to whether we should apply to opt in to it once it has been adopted, as our protocol to the treaty on the functioning of the European Union allows. We will consult Parliament about any decision to apply to opt in to the final text.

TRANSPORT

High-volume Semi-trailers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): Further to my statement of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 23WS, the Department for Transport has today published its response to the consultation on a proposal to allow a 2.05 metre increase in the length of semi-trailers and a maximum overall length for articulated heavy goods vehicles of 18.75 metres.

The research underlying the consultation proposal suggests that high volume semi-trailers have potential environmental, safety and congestion benefits: they would allow up to 13% more loading space than current articulated lorries, resulting in fewer journeys needed to transport the same volume of goods. The research predicts that by 2015 this would reduce lorry miles in the UK by 100 to 180 million a year, meaning reduced congestion, reduced air pollution and reduced carbon emissions (by around 100,000 tonnes a year reduction). The research also found that there would be a net decrease in casualties of around 1.6% from the reduction in lorry miles.

However, the evidence provided during the consultation exercise has identified a number of areas which merit additional investigation. These include possible effects if the number of longer semi-trailers introduced is significantly higher than that predicted by the research and the impact assessment attached to the consultation document; the impacts of longer semi-trailers on road infrastructure and design and on depot and distribution centre infrastructure and design; the impacts on SMEs of allowing longer semi-trailers; and the effectiveness of additional vision/sensor/safety systems fitted to improve detection of vulnerable road users.

The research underlying the consultation proposals was comprehensive. To gather further evidence on such impacts will therefore require a trial of longer semi-trailers in operation. The Department therefore intends to proceed with an operational trial of longer semi-trailers in order to gather practical evidence. Trailers taking part in the trial will operate under Vehicle Special Orders issued under section 44 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

The Department considers that the number of vehicles permitted in the trial will need to be limited, but that the number permitted should still allow meaningful evidence to be gathered on the likely take-up of longer semi-trailers across the vehicle fleet as well as their impact on infrastructure. This would require a trial of vehicle numbers that allows operators to swap a sufficient percentage of their fleet over to the longer semi-trailer to enable them to remove standard trailers from their fleet and make an effective comparison of performance.

The responses to the consultation also indicate that different businesses would wish to choose between additional trailer lengths of up to 1 metre and up to 2.05 metres, depending on the nature of their business. The trial provides an opportunity to validate the impacts of each length. The current trailer parc for articulated vehicle above 40 tonnes in the UK is estimated at around 100,000 trailers. The Department intends to proceed with a trial of up to 900 trailers of an increased length of up to 2.05 metres; and 900 trailers of an increased length of up to 1 metre, 1,800 trailers forming just under 2% of trailers on British roads.

Our baseline research shows that the ability to operate longer semi-trailers would provide clear benefits to business and a spur to efficiency and growth. We expect the trial itself to offer a net present value of £33 million, largely due to the financial benefits operators should see over the 10-year length of the trial (around £1,800 per vehicle per year). We would expect many of these benefits to flow through to the consumer.

Participation in the trial will be on a voluntary basis and at the participants' own risk; there is no guarantee that the use of the longer semi-trailers will continue to be permitted beyond the end of the trial period. The trial will run for 10 years, to allow those businesses wishing to participate the opportunity to cover the costs of investment in the longer semi-trailers. Expressions of interest are invited from today, with the trial starting in January 2012. Information on how to apply can be found on the DfT website.

However, the Department wishes the trial to be closely monitored, to ensure that any significant issues, particularly on safety, that arise are addressed quickly and to ensure that the trial is meeting the Department's objectives. The Department will therefore appoint an independent contractor to monitor and review trial progress. The contractor will report to the Department on a four-monthly basis; at the end of each trial year the Department will review progress towards objectives, including considering any changes to the length of the trial and the numbers of trailers involved in the trial.

Although many of the responses from vehicle operators supported the development of tractor units with a safer more aerodynamic frontal design, it was evident from the majority of responses received from vehicle manufacturers that they are unlikely to progress with the development of improved frontal designs at this time. Therefore, the Department has decided not to include tractor units with an extension of up to 0.4 metres for improved frontal designs in the trial. However, we are keeping the situation under review.

WALES

Commission on Devolution in Wales

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): I informed the House on 19 July that the Government would establish an independent Commission on Devolution in Wales this autumn to review the present financial and constitutional arrangements in Wales. I said that I would make further announcements after recess.

I am now able to inform the House that the Commission will be chaired by Paul Silk, Clerk to the National Assembly for Wales from 2001 to 2007 and a former Clerk in this House. He will be joined on the Commission by two independent members. They are:

> Dyfrig John CBE, Chairman of the Principality Building Society;
>
> and
>
> Professor Noel Lloyd CBE, a former Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Aberystwyth University.

In addition, there will be four party political members who are each nominated by one of the four political parties in the National Assembly for Wales. They are:

> Professor Nick Bourne (Welsh Conservatives nominee);
>
> Sue Essex (Welsh Labour nominee);
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> Rob Humphreys (Welsh Liberal Democrats nominee); and
>
> Dr Eurfyl ap Gwilym (Plaid Cymru nominee).

The Commission members have, between them, extensive expertise and experience in financial and constitutional matters in relation to Wales. I expect the Commission to consult widely on its proposals, and to make recommendations likely to have a wide degree of support.

The terms of reference for the Commission reflect the fact that it will carry out its work in two parts. In part I, the Commission will look at the case for the devolution of fiscal powers to the National Assembly for Wales, and recommend a package of fiscal powers that would improve the financial accountability of the Assembly, and which are consistent with the United Kingdom's fiscal objectives.

In part II the Commission will look at the powers of the Assembly, and recommend modifications to improve the present constitutional arrangements.

The Government worked closely with the Welsh Government and all the parties in the Assembly in drafting the terms of reference. The full terms of reference for the Commission are attached at annex A, and I have also placed copies in the Library of the House.

The Commission will report to me and, in relation to part I, also to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It will be supported in its work by a small secretariat of civil servants drawn from the United Kingdom Government and the Welsh Government. It will make every effort to report on its recommendations in relation to part I in the autumn of 2012, and on part II during 2013.

COMMISSION ON DEVOLUTION IN WALES—TERMS OF REFERENCE

An independent Commission will be established to review the present financial and constitutional arrangements in Wales. It will carry out its work in two parts:

Part I: financial accountability

To review the case for the devolution of fiscal powers to the National Assembly for Wales and to recommend a package of powers that would improve the financial accountability of the Assembly, which are consistent with the United Kingdom's fiscal objectives and are likely to have a wide degree of support.

Part II: powers of the National Assembly for Wales

To review the powers of the National Assembly for Wales in the light of experience and to recommend modifications to the present constitutional arrangements that would enable the United Kingdom Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales to better serve the people of Wales.

In undertaking part I, the Commission should:

provide independent advice on the case for improving the financial accountability of the National Assembly for Wales consistent with the fiscal and constitutional framework of the United Kingdom;

consult widely on a package of fiscal powers which would improve the financial accountability of the National Assembly for Wales;

make recommendations on whether a package of fiscal powers could be devolved to the National Assembly for Wales which are likely to have a wide degree of support; and

consider and make recommendations on how best to resolve the legal and practical implementation issues from devolving a package of fiscal powers, including consistency within the United Kingdom.

Part I will be completed before work on part II begins.

In undertaking part II, the Commission should:

examine the powers of the National Assembly for Wales, and in particular:

the boundary between what is devolved and non-devolved;

whether modifications to the boundary should be made at this stage; and

any cross-border implications of such modifications;

consult widely on any proposed modifications to the current boundary;

make recommendations on any modifications to the settlement likely to have a wide degree of support; and

consider and make recommendations on how best to resolve the legal and practical implementation issues from those modifications.

The Commission will not consider, in part I, the Holtham Commission's proposals for funding reform in Wales, including Welsh Ministers' existing borrowing powers, which are being dealt with through a separate bilateral process between the United Kingdom Government and the Welsh Government; and, in part II, the structure of the National Assembly for Wales, including issues relating to the election of Assembly Members.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 12 October 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Workplace Rights and Enforcement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I announced to the House in December 2010 that the Government would undertake a review of workplace rights and enforcement to establish the scope to streamline them and make them more effective. The terms of reference for the review were lodged in the parliamentary Library in January this year. In looking at this complex architecture it is clear that we first need to ask a number of questions as part of the red tape challenge, which launched its spotlight on employment law on 3 October 2011. I draw the House's attention to the discussion paper, "Flexible, effective, fair: Promoting economic growth through a strong and efficient labour market" published on this date, in which we present some of our initial findings and set out the strategic questions for the red tape challenge spotlight period.

Our initial assessment is that there is significant fragmentation within the enforcement landscape, but this is largely as a consequence of the underpinning regulations. There is no common rationale for determining those rights that are Government enforced and those that are enforced through tribunals. There is no single overarching compliance strategy for Government enforcement of workplace rights, nor is there a mechanism for reviewing whether the risk associated with particular workplace rights still warrants Government enforcement. The different enforcement bodies have a range of powers and penalties at their disposal, including naming, civil penalties, criminal prosecution, licence revocation and prohibition for a defined period of time. These varying powers are also a consequence of differences in the underpinning regulations.

The creation of the pay and work rights helpline has done much to align the work of the different agencies and the impact of the fragmentation of the enforcement activity has not significantly impacted the experience of those workers seeking redress through the helpline. However, those furthest from the labour market often do not trust Government bodies to act on their behalf, perhaps as a consequence of cultural and historical experiences in other countries, or for fear of personal consequences. It is essential that the most vulnerable workers have confidence in their ability to access the protection they need and we are keen to learn lessons from unions and community groups who have a long track record in reaching these individuals.

While all the enforcement bodies have made significant efficiency savings, there is duplication of activity between the different enforcement bodies. Each of the bodies, for example, has separate corporate and management functions, intelligence assessment and risk evaluation functions. When carrying out enforcement inspections, the different enforcement bodies often look at the same evidence (such as contracts/statements of particulars, pay and work time records) and ask the same questions of employers or agencies, but there remain some legal barriers that prevent enforcement bodies from co-operating with each other, and with other regulatory bodies.

In order for us to be able to make progress on reviewing Government enforcement, I believe that we must review the underpinning regulations as part of the red tape challenge, including whether a lighter-touch enforcement regime could be implemented where rights are currently enforced by Government. In parallel to this work the Government will continue to consider potential enforcement models, including whether there could be benefits from establishing a fair employment agency to protect the rights of the most vulnerable. I will report back to the House again on progress in the spring.

DEFENCE

Libya (Operation Ellamy)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): In a written statement on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS, I informed the House that the costs of Operation Ellamy—the United Kingdom's contribution to coalition operations in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973—for the six months from mid-March to mid-September were estimated to be £120 million. I can now update this estimate.

The revised figure for the whole operation, from mid-March to mid-December, is £160 million. Our estimate of the cost of replenishing munitions used in Libya remains £140 million. As previously announced, the additional costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence on Operation Ellamy will be borne by the reserve, and will be in addition to the core defence budget.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I am today announcing the outcome of the offshore energy strategic environmental assessment (OESEA2) regarding future offshore energy developments.

In 2009, DECC completed a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of a draft plan/programme to hold further rounds of offshore leasing for wind and offshore oil and gas licensing in United Kingdom waters (OESEA). Then in 2010, DECC undertook an exercise to update and extend the scope of the OESEA environmental report (OESEA2) and issue it for consultation to enable further licensing/leasing for offshore energy (oil and gas, gas storage including carbon dioxide transport and storage as part of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and offshore marine renewables, including wind, wave and tidal.

The renewable energy elements of the draft plan/programme cover parts of the UK renewable energy zone and the territorial waters of England and Wales; for hydrocarbon gas and carbon dioxide storage it applies to UK waters (territorial waters and the UK gas importation and storage zone); and for hydrocarbon exploration and production it applies to all UK waters.

A 12-week public consultation on the OESEA2 environmental report closed on 12 May 2011. All responses received on the draft plan/programme and the environmental report have been considered by DECC and a post consultation report for the offshore energy SEA has been prepared and placed on the SEA website (www.offshore-sea.org.uk). This summarises consultee comments and DECC responses to them, and presents a final list of recommendations.

In the light of the final recommendations set out in the post-consultation report, the Department concludes that there are no overriding environmental considerations to prevent the achievement of our draft plan/programme of leasing offshore wind, wave and tidal, licensing/leasing for seaward oil and gas rounds, hydrocarbon and carbon dioxide storage, provided appropriate measures are implemented that prevent, reduce and offset significant adverse impacts on the environment and other users of the sea.

In all cases, the relevant competent authority should undertake any appropriate assessments(s) prior to awarding licences or leases under the rounds, where screening shows this to be necessary. This is to meet the requirements of EU Council Directive 79/409 EEC on "the conservation of wild birds" and Council Directive 92/43/EEC on "the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora", and UK implementing regulations.

DECC will now make preparations to proceed for a further round—the 27th—of offshore licensing for oil and gas. This is expected to be launched in early 2012 and a further announcement will be made on the timing of the round.

DECC and Scottish Ministers (where appropriate) are now also in a position to consider applications for carbon dioxide storage licences, and to issue those licences, and subsequently to issue storage permits, where the applications meet regulatory requirements.

OESEA2 paves the way for future leasing rounds for marine (wave and tidal) energy. It allows for an installed capacity of up to 33GW of offshore wind—subject to mitigation measures. This is in excess of the central range set out in the UK renewable energy roadmap, which indicates that up to 18GW of offshore wind could be deployed by 2020.

The environmental report highlights that siting and consenting processes for offshore renewable energy developments must remain flexible to allow for technological innovation, including any mitigation measures.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Somali Piracy (Funding Regional Maritime Capacity-Building Projects)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): I would like to inform the House that the Government have decided to fund a package of counter-piracy projects, building on support provided in 2010-11. This support provides concrete evidence of this Government's determination to deliver a comprehensive range of action in response to the threat from piracy, complementing the robust action being taken by the Royal Navy at sea.

The projects support court and prison capacity building in Mauritius, the Seychelles, Tanzania and Somalia delivered through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (£2.25 million); a maritime security sector needs assessment planning mission in Somalia, delivered through the UN Development Programme (£200,000); maritime security co-ordination offices in Somalia, delivered through the UN Political Office for Somalia, and including the Somali regions (£120,000); and projects supporting community engagement and economic development in coastal areas of Somalia, developed with UN partners in Somalia, including UNODC and UNDP (£2 million).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Licensing Hours (Queen's Diamond Jubilee)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Today I am publishing a consultation on proposals to make an order to relax licensing hours to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations for the period Saturday 2 June to Tuesday 5 June 2012. The proposed order will extend licensed opening hours on Friday 1 June to 1 am on Saturday 2 June 2012, and on Saturday 2 June to 1 am on Sunday 3 June 2012, for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises and the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment by licensed premises in England and Wales.

Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 allows the Secretary of State to make an order relaxing opening hours for licensed premises to mark occasions of "exceptional international, national or local significance". A "licensing hours order" overrides existing opening hours in licensed premises, that is, any premises with a premises licence or club premises certificate, and can apply to a period of up to four days. An order may apply to all licensed premises in England and Wales, or be restricted to premises in one or more specified areas. It is also possible to impose different opening hours on different days during the relaxation period and to allow different licensing hours for different licensable activities.

The Government consider that, as the Queen's diamond jubilee is an occasion for national celebration, licensing hours should be relaxed in all licensed premises in England and Wales. However, we are mindful that late night drinking can lead to crime and disorder and public nuisance. On this basis, we are proposing a modest relaxation of licensing hours until 1 am on each of two days and intend to restrict the order to the sale of alcohol in pubs, clubs and anywhere else where alcohol is consumed on the premises and to regulated entertainment such as live and recorded music, dancing, plays and films. We are also limiting the order to the nights of Friday 1 June and Saturday 2 June 2012, as these are the days when people are most likely to want to celebrate.

The consultation will be published today (Wednesday 12 October) on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/consultations. A copy has also been placed in the House Library.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee Report

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): The annual report of the Intelligence and Security Committee was laid before Parliament on 13 July 2011 (Cm. 8114). The Government have considered the Committee's many useful conclusions and recommendations, I have today laid the Government's response to this report before the House (Cm. 8168).

Copies of the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 13 October 2011

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Training and Development

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I am today announcing further steps in reforms to make civil service training more modern, efficient and cost-effective.

For too long we have relied on expensive residential and classroom-based training, duplicating effort across Departments. The new Civil Service Learning will focus on work-based approaches including e-learning and will directly involve managers in the training process.

The reforms in training will save around £90 million per year and at the same time improve the quality and impact of training. It will also create greater flexibility by sourcing much of the training from external providers including small and medium-sized enterprises.

As part of these reforms, the National School of Government will close on 31 March 2012. Until then the school will remain open for business and provide a range of products to support Civil Service Learning.

The changes will:

ensure that we get the best value when we buy training through improved procurement—moving away from Department-based procurement to a civil service-wide approach leveraging economies of scale;

ensure consistency in civil service skills development and enable better evaluation and control of training effectiveness and value for money;

ensure civil service training is delivered in line with modern practice in other organisations, move away from expensive residential and classroom-based training and focus more on work-based and supported online learning;

ensure that by 1 April 2012, all Government training and development spend will be channelled through one operator—CSL.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Neighbourhood Planning Consultation

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): Neighbourhood planning is central to the Government's decentralisation, localism and big society agenda. With greater decentralisation of planning powers, people are being given the opportunity to shape and influence the places where they live and they have more reasons to say "yes" to sustainable development.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is today launching a consultation, which seeks views on the Government's proposed new regulations governing the process for establishing neighbourhood areas and forums, the requirements of community right to build organisations, and the preparation of neighbourhood plans and orders, and community right to build orders.

The consultation sets out how the Government propose to take up the regulation-making powers in the Localism Bill for neighbourhood planning and community right to build. The regulations proposed set out the minimum level of requirements that would ensure a nationally consistent approach to designating neighbourhood areas and neighbourhood forums, and the preparation of neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders. The consultation asks for comments on whether the regulations as proposed are workable and proportionate.

The closing date for responses will be 5 January 2012.

I am placing a copy of the consultation document and the draft regulations in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Continuity of Education Allowance

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): I am now able to announce the conclusions of the review I led into continuity of education allowance (CEA).

CEA costs the Department about £180 million a year to support the 7,900 children of about 5,500 service claimants; about £70 million of this is to settle the tax liability that would otherwise be incurred by claimants serving in the UK. Parents are also required to contribute a minimum of 10% of the school fees; many pay much more, as the maximum allowance covers less of their chosen school's fees. The 7,900 service children are distributed across about 440 schools, 25 of which are state boarding schools, and they represent about 11% of the total number of children in boarding schools in the UK. The review found that CEA contributes to operational effectiveness by supporting family mobility and accompanied service. It is greatly valued by claimants; but it is expensive, complex to administer and has had a weak governance structure. The challenge for the review was to develop an approach that would increase value for money and save costs, while still supporting mobility, within the context of service life as we expect it to be in the future. Moreover, we had to ensure that the interests of service children were fully protected. I believe we have achieved this.

First, and of paramount importance, I reaffirm the Government's commitment to support service personnel and their families. As the recent Ofsted report on children in service families made clear, the combination of deployment of a family member and regular moves of home and school can cause anxiety and stress for service families whether living in the UK or overseas and education is disturbed. While this pattern of mobility remains, as it still does for many of our personnel, it is only right that support should be available to minimise the disruptive effect of frequent moves on family life, including support for those service parents for whom continuity of education for their children is best met through boarding school provision.

We have consulted the service community—claimants and non-claimants—both directly and through the service families federations. We have consulted the principal associations representing boarding, independent and preparatory schools and we have compared our practices with those of other major employers in the public and private sectors and our major allies.

We have exhaustively considered a wide range of options for reshaping CEA and how it is delivered. The main options considered were: different ways in which the Department might contract, or pay, for the service; greater use of state boarding schools; increasing the minimum age to exclude the primary stage of education; reducing the maximum age for child eligibility to the end of year 11; restricting entitlement to those serving abroad and with no access to suitable schools; ceasing entitlement for new joiners; increasing parental contributions; transferring the tax liability to claimants; alternative remuneration/allowance packages; and improvements to governance. Many of these options would bear heavily on claimants and their children; and could not be implemented without allowing reasonable time for adjustment.

Against this background, for at least the near to medium-term, we have decided to maintain the core principles of CEA and restrict changes to those that have merit in their own right. We will maintain current parental contribution rates to overall school fees and the eligibility age range for children, though we will remove eligibility for initial claims for years 12 and 13. There will be no changes in our provisions for special educational needs or day school allowances. Parents will continue to be able to choose the most appropriate school for their children from the current wide range of state and independent schools on our accredited list, but as overall numbers of CEA claimants decline we will encourage those who still need boarding education to use state boarding schools, where the tuition fees are already met by the state. Improvements to governance, rule-tightening and clarification of existing entitlements are being introduced. We will develop a centralised payment system to pay fees direct to schools. Any liability to income tax will not be paid by individual claimants.

In the longer-term, we expect the terms and conditions of service of our personnel, and their living patterns, to be different. Withdrawal of units from Germany, concentration on fewer bases and the expectation that many more of our personnel will have less mobile careers, allowing greater stability of home life, will change the requirement for CEA. We will need to do more to encourage and support stability. The new employment model (NEM) programme, which is due to report in the summer of 2012, aims to define how this will happen and, while the project is pursuing a balance between a wide-range of potential benefits, we will set a clear target that it should reduce expenditure on CEA by at least half by 2020, compared with the pre-strategic defence and security review baseline. In designing the NEM, we may well find that reduced mobility will enable us to achieve the challenging reductions in expenditure without major changes to the allowance itself. But, in addressing this issue, the project will also have to look more radically at the best ways to support personnel and families within future resources, given the high costs of boarding education and the relatively small numbers of personnel who could be expected to be eligible for CEA by the end of the decade.

I believe that this is a good outcome for service families and the taxpayer, balancing the need to support service mobility at present with longer-term structural changes, in a measured and progressive way that takes account of financial constraints, improves value for money and avoids adverse impact on service children.

Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): In June 2009 the previous Government announced that a feasibility study into the establishment of a defence and national rehabilitation centre (DNRC) would be undertaken. I am today announcing the outcome of that study and the next steps that will be taken. But I wish to do so in the wider context of what is being done for members of the armed forces in the field of both rehabilitation and recovery.

Rehabilitation is primarily clinical treatment for medical conditions arising from illness, wounding or injury. The Defence Medical Services (DMS) are responsible for the provision of rehabilitation. Defence relies upon the availability of medically fit and healthy personnel in order to generate forces for operations. A tiered structure of rehabilitation is provided for all personnel who need it, whatever the cause of their injury or illness. The DMS run local primary care rehabilitation facilities in barracks and stations in which minor cases can be treated. More significant conditions are referred to one of 13 regional rehabilitation units (RRU) in the UK and two in Germany.

In the operational theatre, a deployed rehabilitation capability is available to treat personnel with minor injuries, so avoiding the need to repatriate them. The most seriously wounded are treated first in the theatre of operations before aeromedical evacuation and admission to the military ward of the Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham. When their injuries are sufficiently healed, most such patients start a rehabilitation programme at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey, which treats complex or persistent cases regardless of how they are caused.

Let me turn now to recovery. Recovery is primarily a non-clinical activity, which may involve individuals taking rest periods during their rehabilitation treatment programmes. Recovery activity ensures that wounded, injured and sick personnel have access to all the key services and resources needed to help them return to duty or make a smooth transition to an appropriately skilled civilian life. This care is delivered across the defence community by the combined efforts of the services and the service charities, responding to carefully tailored individual recovery plans setting out a recovery pathway.

Single service recovery provision is co-ordinated by the defence recovery steering group (DRSG) and collectively forms the defence recovery capability (DRC). The Army's wounded, injured and sick are managed at brigade level by 13 regional personnel recovery units (PRUs). The naval services, including the royal marines, are supported at each Royal Navy base but have special facilities at Devonport with Hasler company. The Royal Air Force has a recovery flight as part of their recovery pathway which is followed by all RAF personnel who are unable to return to duty after sickness or injury.

A programme is under way to support the DRC by the creation of personnel recovery centres (PRCs). These centres are already being built in garrison towns in Colchester, Catterick, Tidworth and, in the case of the naval services, at Plymouth. The Pathfinder Centre, opened in Edinburgh in 2009, supported by Help For Heroes for the first two years, is now being run by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and supported by the Royal British Legion and Erskine homes.

The PRCs and other facilities are being built by Help For Heroes in Tidworth, Colchester and Catterick and by the Royal British Legion in Sennelager in Germany. This has been made possible by the generous initiatives of Help For Heroes and the Royal British Legion. Long-term funding will be the responsibility of the MOD. Additional support is being provided by many other charities and Government agencies to ensure that the DRC is able to deliver effective and co-ordinated support from regional support hubs.

The Battle Back programme provides adaptive sport and adventure training opportunities to wounded, sick and injured personnel at all stages of recovery. The programme will be further developed through a defence adaptive sport and adventurous training centre at the Sport England Centre of Excellence at Lilleshall. Funding for this Battle Back centre is being provided by the Royal British Legion and wider Battle Back activity is supported by Help For Heroes through the PRCs.

This partnership between the MOD and the service charities is a long-standing tradition. This multimillion pound programme, using funds raised by a generous and benevolent British public, is already supporting wounded and injured personnel. Once completed, the DRC will provide a comprehensive support network to both serving personnel and their families, and to those who leave the services through injury.

Rehabilitation medicine is advancing rapidly in terms of how technology can help people recover and the extent to which modern medical science might offer new possibilities in the rehabilitative field. While the existing defence rehabilitation facility at Headley Court, established in 1947, is widely admired for achieving remarkable results for those injured in conflict, it is important that defence is in a position to benefit to the maximum degree from advances in technology and science. Realising the full benefits of such advances will not be possible in the medium to long-term because of the physical constraints of the Headley Court site and will therefore require purpose-built accommodation and facilities. It was for this reason that the feasibility study into the concept of a DNRC was conducted, involving the possibility of establishing a new facility in the midlands and looking at how the whole issue of rehabilitation should be developed in 21st-century terms.

The study involved the MOD, the Department of Health, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It was conducted during 2010 and 2011 and is now complete. It took evidence from a wide variety of sources including many of the practitioners at Headley Court. It concluded that there is convincing evidence that a DNRC would build on the remarkable achievements of Headley Court by offering substantial "betterment" in virtually all areas, providing an assured level of future care that will surpass that which is offered by Headley Court's current and planned capabilities. The MOD's surgeon general considers that the degree of "betterment" is shown to be compelling and very significant in terms of scale, quality, design, patient flows and future-proofing. It presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop the nation's rehabilitation capability in partnership with the MOD, which builds on defence's acknowledged lead in this area. This defence "core" of a DNRC has been defined in considerable detail and will include specific provision for neurological and complex trauma patients as well as "back to life" facilities.

The study also revealed widespread support for the notion of civilian rehabilitation benefiting from close association with the defence equivalent. Although less developed at this stage, the study concluded that significant national benefits could come into play. The urgent need for improvement in the nation's approach to getting injured people back to work is well known—the cost to the taxpayer of lost working days was estimated in 2006 to be over £60 billion. A combination of defence and civilian medicine, university-led research and development, and national disabled sporting facilities in one location could provide a combination unique in the world. The focus on work-related interventions, looking at what people can do, rather than what they cannot, has the potential to bring huge benefits to the nation through reducing the social and economic costs of ill-health in working-age adults. Professor Dame Sally Davies, the chief medical officer of the Department of Health and the NHS in England, and the surgeon general in the MOD strongly support the development of a DNRC, and the trustees of the Headley Court trust also support the project. The next steps will be to develop further the concept for the national elements and to embark upon acquiring the necessary capital through a fundraising campaign. During the study a test site in the midlands was identified as able to accommodate both the defence military establishment and allow space for national facilities to be developed over time. The test site allowed the development of robust costs on the basis of designs to fit the MOD's clinical brief.

With his permission, modestly given, I am able to tell the House that the benefactor behind this project is the Duke of Westminster. The initiative was his from the outset. Since then, the Duke of Westminster has been working on the project quietly behind the scenes for two years, and it was he who generously funded the feasibility study. His generosity has now extended to the acquisition of the test site so that, as a first step, a dialogue with the planning authority can take place to explore the site's DNRC potential. He will also fund the necessary work to process the planning application. If the decision is made to proceed with a DNRC, it is the Duke's intention to donate the site to the project. He will now lead the major donor fundraising campaign and make a very substantial donation to it beyond that which he has already given.

Nevertheless, I can assure the House that no final decision on the future of Headley Court has been made. I expect to be in a position to announce progress on these next steps towards the end of 2013. Should the decision be made to proceed with the project, the outcome would be a new defence establishment, opening in 2017, which would ensure that the spirit and achievements of Headley Court are carried forward into the 21st century on a new larger site, purpose-built to continue to do what Headley Court has always done so well.

Meanwhile, development of the defence recovery capability will proceed and by the end of 2012 the full capability is expected to be in place.

The Government are committed to providing the best possible care for our wounded and injured service personnel. A DNRC offers the clear and compelling opportunity to realise the full benefits of future advances and we should seize it for the medium to long-term. For now, I can assure the House that we shall continue to invest in Headley Court so that it continues to deliver to the best possible standard. A project to increase capacity and sustain infrastructure is planned to start at the end of this year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

FCO Review of Export Policy

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I am today announcing the outcome of a review of UK defence and security export policy in the light of events in the middle east and north Africa.

On 16 March 2011, I told the Foreign Affairs Committee that the Government would review policy and practice with regard to the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in particular crowd control goods, in the light of events in the middle east and north Africa. Government colleagues with responsibilities in this area, in particular the Secretary of State for Business, Innovations and Skills who has responsibility for our export licensing systems and operations, have been consulted in the course of this review.

The review concluded that there are no fundamental flaws with the UK export licensing system. But the review identified areas where our system could be further strengthened to enable Ministers to respond rapidly and decisively to the outbreak of conflict, instability or unpredictable events in other countries. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is already a mandatory criterion for all export licence decisions. The changes announced today will increase our confidence that UK-origin goods will not be misused for internal repression, and that our controls are being applied in an orderly and systematic way, informed and influenced by our values and interests. This will complement the Government's efforts to build Britain's prosperity by increasing exports and helping UK companies succeed in international markets.

The Government propose to introduce a mechanism to allow immediate licensing suspension to countries experiencing a sharp deterioration in security or stability. Applications in the pipeline would be stopped and no further licences issued, pending ministerial or departmental review.

We also propose the introduction of a revised risk categorisation, based on objective indicators and reviewed regularly, that keeps pace with changing circumstances; enhances our assessment against all export control criteria, including human rights violations; and allows specifically for ministerial scrutiny of open licences to ensure that the benefits of open licensing can be maintained while keeping the associated risks to acceptable levels. This will increase oversight by Ministers, including of individual licence applications.

As a result of these changes the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will ensure that export licensing policy is more responsive to rapidly changing circumstances, particularly political instability; bring more structure and consistency to the gathering of export-related information, provide more information on the human rights situation in country, including through following new security and justice assistance guidance and undertake end-use monitoring of controlled military goods, bearing in mind both the practical and resource limitations.

The Government will continue to work to improve public information on defence and security exports, including enhanced transparency of routine export licensing decisions and how we respond during a crisis. We welcome the scrutiny of the Committees on Arms Export Controls and will continue to assist in their important work.

The Government have also considered how we can strengthen our decision making when we provide security and justice assistance overseas. We must provide assistance to international partners to tackle threats such as terrorism, serious organised crime and conflict prevention. In doing so, we will ensure that this assistance supports our values, is consistent with our domestic and international human rights obligations, and seeks to promote human rights and democracy. To this end, guidance will be issued for all HMG officials on assessing the human rights implications of our overseas security and justice assistance. We will make this guidance public later this year.

We are committed to robust and effective national and global controls to help prevent exports that could undermine our own security or core values of human rights and democracy; to protect our security through strategic defence relationships; and to promote our prosperity by allowing British defence and security industries to operate effectively in the global defence market.

The Government are determined to learn the wider lessons of events in the middle east and north Africa. I believe that this package of improvements is the proper response to the lessons of this year. This does not preclude additional measures or further strengthening of the system.

European Union Act 2011 (Statement)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): A statement has been laid before the House today, 13 October, and copies are available in the Vote Office. This has been made pursuant to section 5 of the European Union Act 2011 as to whether the decision made at the European Council of 24 and 25 March 2011 to amend article 136 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union falls within section 4 of the EU Act.

The statement and forthcoming Bill to approve the proposed treaty change before the UK can ratify will be the first application of the EU Act 2011 and the enhanced public and parliamentary scrutiny that this provides.

HEALTH

"Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Call to Action on Obesity"

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): The Government are today publishing "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England".

The public health White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England" sets out the coalition Government's commitment to improve the health of the nation, and to improve the health of the poorest, fastest. It describes the radical shift that we are making in the way we tackle public health challenges.

The White Paper committed us to publishing a number of follow-on documents on how we will address specific public health challenges. The call to action is the second of these documents, and sets out how our vision for public health will enable us to achieve a new level of ambition in addressing overweight and obesity.

England has some of the highest rates of obesity in the developed world. It is a major risk factor for diseases such as cancer, heart disease and type 2 diabetes and costs the NHS more than £5 billion each year. Alongside the serious ill health it can lead to, it can impact on employment, self-esteem and mental health.

Such a pressing issue calls for bold action—by Government and across the range of partners with a role to play. Our White Paper underlined the importance of taking a life course approach to public health issues, and the call to action reflects this by setting out two new national ambitions to achieve a downward trend in overweight and obesity in both children and adults by 2020. Given that more than 60% of the adult population is already overweight or obese, we must tackle the major problem that we already have as well as continuing to focus on prevention.

Our approach to obesity is based on the latest scientific evidence, including advice from a group of independent experts which has estimated the extent of our over-consumption of calories. Being overweight and obese are a direct consequence of taking on more calories through food or drink than we need. We need to be honest with ourselves and recognise that we need to make some changes to control our weight. For most of us who are overweight and obese, reducing the amount of calories we consume is key to weight loss. Increasing physical activity can also be helpful alongside calorie reduction in achieving weight loss and sustaining a healthy body weight, as well as improving overall health.

In setting our new national ambitions, we are clear that it is for each of us to make our own decisions about how we live our lives. But it is important that people are equipped to make the best choices for themselves and their families, and that the healthier choice becomes the easier choice. Everyone has a role to play in this—including businesses in the food and drink and physical activity sectors, employers who can support the health of their work force, and local NHS staff in talking to people about overweight and obesity and its consequences.

We are also calling on business to play a greater and leading role (alongside Government and others) in supporting the population in reducing its calorie intake by 5 billion calories a day to help close the crucial imbalance between energy in and energy out. It is important for business to reduce the calorie content of everyday foods and drinks, making our environment less likely to lead to weight gain, as it is for each of us to avoid eating too much.

As set out in the White Paper, localism is at the heart of the new approach to public health and local leadership will be critically important in preventing and tackling overweight and obesity. Local authorities will have a new enhanced role, supported by a ring-fenced budget, and will bring together local partners with a role in providing effective interventions—including the NHS. The call to action sets out the opportunity that this will bring and the way in which it will help to ensure that action on obesity is tailored to meet the needs of different communities and address health inequalities, rather than imposing a top-down approach.

As reducing levels of overweight and obesity is "everybody's business", it is important that everyone with a part to play to knows what progress is being made. The new national ambitions provide a clear goal to aim for, and a new national ambition review group for obesity will draw together a wide coalition of partners to assess progress.

The Government invite all those committed to preventing and tackling overweight and obesity to respond to this call to action and play their part.

"Healthy Lives, Healthy People. A call to action on obesity in England", as well as the Change4Life marketing strategy—also published today—have been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum Procedures and Reception Conditions Directives

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government have decided not to opt in to the European Commission's amended proposals for asylum procedures and reception conditions directives.

The Government have grave concerns about the way in which the provisions in the amended reception conditions directive would allow asylum seekers to work after six months if a decision at first instance has not been reached and would place stringent restrictions on member states' ability to detain asylum seekers in exceptional circumstances. These restrictions are unnecessary in a system such as ours where detainees have the right to apply to the courts for release on bail, or to bring a legal challenge against their detention.

The amended procedures directive would place restrictions on accelerated procedures, and on the making of asylum appeals non-suspensive (where a right of appeal can be exercised out of country only), which would endanger a number of systems that the UK operates to manage straightforward asylum claims effectively—in particular our detained fast track which provides speedy but fair decisions for any asylum seekers whose claims are capable of being decided quickly.

Unfortunately, rather than giving us the correct means by which to consider asylum claims effectively and to deter abuse, both directives subject member states' asylum systems to unjustified regulation and focus excessively on enhancing the rights of all asylum seekers whether their claims are valid or not. This would have significant cost implications for the UK.

The Government will continue to approach forthcoming legislation in the area of justice and home affairs on a case-by-case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting Britain's civil liberties and enhancing our ability to control immigration.

TRANSPORT

Informal EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): The Polish presidency of the EU held its first meeting of EU Transport Ministers in Luxembourg on 6 October. The UK was represented by officials.

There was a policy debate on a draft regulation amending regulation 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport and amending regulation 561/2006. The UK reiterated our support for measures that reduce burdens on business and expressed doubts that the costs and benefits of the Commission's proposal had been fully assessed. The presidency noted that discussions were at an early stage and that consideration would continue at official level.

The mandate for enlarging the geographical scope of the existing Interbus agreement was not discussed at the Council.

The Council agreed two negotiating mandates in the area of aviation external relations:

> The first was to negotiate a high-level agreement with the European Organisation for Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL).
>
> The second was to open negotiations on a comprehensive air transport agreement with Azerbaijan.

The Council adopted conclusions on the Commission communication on "The EU and its neighbouring regions: A renewed approach to transport cooperation". A number of member states intervened in support. The conclusions have taken on board the UK's key concerns and are set broadly to maximise the opportunities for trade liberalisation, economic integration and regulatory convergence.

A lunch time discussion on trans-European transport network was held. The UK stressed the need for realism on the TENs budget in the current economic climate and emphasised that decisions on which projects should be developed and invested in on national networks should remain with the member states concerned. Legislative proposals for all trans-European networks (transport, energy and digital communication) are expected to be published on 19 October.

Among AOB items, discussions were held on the Emissions Trading System (ETS) for aviation. The presidency noted that the European Court of Justice had published an advocate-general's opinion which concluded that the aviation ETS directive was compatible with EU law. The Commission provided oral information noting that the situation was getting highly political and would require a united EU approach to face off third countries' opposition. The UK intervened to reiterate its commitment to the inclusion of aviation in the EU ETS and its support of the advocate-general's opinion.

Traffic Signs Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): Great Britain has one of the safest road networks in the world and the quality and clarity of our traffic signs make a significant contribution to this. The Department for Transport has now completed the most significant review of traffic signs for over 40 years to ensure that this traffic sign system continues to meet the needs of road users now and in the future.

I am pleased to announce that the Department is today publishing the policy document, "Signing the Way", which sets out the findings of the review. This document provides a framework for a new traffic sign system which retains national consistency, but reduces central Government involvement in local decisions, reducing costs and giving local authorities the flexibility to respond to local needs. It also sets out our proposals for streamlining the traffic regulation order process which would reduce costs and time.

The review recognises that our travel behaviour is changing and that people are being encouraged to cycle and to walk where practical. The traffic sign system needs to reflect these changes and this review will ensure that our traffic signs meet the needs of all road users.

Traffic signs also directly affect how much clutter there is on our roads. While road users require traffic signs to undertake their journeys safely and legally, too much signing creates an untidy, unattractive and confusing environment. The review sets out measures to reduce the number of signs on the road and provides advice to local authorities on removing unnecessary signing.

The review requires a major update of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions and the Department is proceeding with this work as a priority. In the interim, we will deliver changes where possible through the Secretary of State's traffic signs authorisation process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pensions

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I shall today table Government amendments to the Pensions Bill 2011, including one that caps the maximum increase in women's state pension age at 18 months, relative to the legislated timetable.

The amendment to clause 1 will ameliorate the increase in state pension age for around 245,000 women and 240,000 men and reduce total savings from the increase to 66 by around £1.1 billion (in 2011-12 prices). It maintains our policy to equalise the state pension age for men and women in 2018 and increase to 66 by 2020.

The Government will also table three other amendments to the Pensions Bill 2011. These amendments respond to a recent judgment of the Supreme Court and protect members of pension schemes from unclear or unfair pension saving charges.

The first amendment clarifies what is meant by a "money purchase benefit", to ensure scheme members are protected appropriately. The second extends an existing reserve power to cap charges for deferred members, which would enable Government to protect all scheme members from high charges, not just active members. The third is a technical amendment to protect individuals who become automatically enrolled into a personal pension scheme when their employer closes a defined benefit or hybrid scheme to new members.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 17 October 2011

TREASURY

ECOFIN 4 October 2011

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 4 October 2011. The Financial Secretary and I represented the UK. The following items were discussed:

Regulation on over-the-counter derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories (EMIR)

Prior to the meeting, the Government were clear that the regulation as it stood was unacceptable. In line with concerns raised previously by the European Union Committee, I therefore made it clear that a number of changes to the text were needed, including:

in order for the college to block an authorisation of a central counterparty (CCP), all members of the college, excluding the relevant National Competent Authority (NCA), must vote against it;

wording in an article that would forbid any decisions on CCPs being made on a basis that would discriminate against any member state as a venue for clearing services in any currency;

in order to foster competition, provisions requiring open access to CCPs and trading venues for over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives, as well as a public statement from the Commission that full fair and open access would be dealt with properly in forthcoming legislation;

a public declaration that the issue of scope and adequate coverage to meet the G20 agreement would be dealt with in upcoming legislation; and

a clear statement that the drafting of third country provisions required further work, which will be completed in the context of negotiations with the European Parliament.

With these conditions met, the Council agreed a general approach. The presidency, on behalf of the Council, will now start negotiations with the European Parliament, with a view to reaching agreement at First Reading.

Legislative proposals on economic governance

The Council agreed to a compromise text on the package of six legislative proposals. The Government are content with the package, which will strengthen economic governance in the EU, while respecting the UK's fiscal sovereignty. The Council will formally adopt the proposals without further discussion once the texts have been finalised in all official languages.

European Central Bank (ECB): nomination of an executive board member

The Council adopted a recommendation on the nomination of Jörg Asmussen to the executive board of the ECB, to succeed Jürgen Stark, who announced his resignation on 9 September. The Government are content with this recommendation; matters related to the ECB are for euro area member states to decide. The Council's recommendation will be submitted for a decision to the European Council, after consulting the European Parliament and the ECB's governing council.

Information on the informal ECOFIN meeting

The presidency gave a de-brief of the September informal ECOFIN, and presented a proposal for the ECOFIN Council to assess the impact of new EU legislation on growth and jobs. This was then discussed over lunch, with the Government offering support. Officials will now produce a formal proposal, which will be discussed at a future ECOFIN.

Review of the fiscal exit strategy

Finance Ministers agreed Council conclusions on the implications of lower growth on excessive deficit procedure and stability and growth pact targets. The Government support these conclusions, which are in line with domestic fiscal policy and the emerging international debate on differentiating fiscal strategies between countries. The conclusions will feed into the European Council debate on EU growth on 23 October.

Implementation of the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP)

ECOFIN held an exchange of views on implementation of the EDP following recent developments. The Government welcome the emphasis on ensuring that all member states fully implement budgetary strategies for timely meeting of fiscal targets. The Commission will provide a more comprehensive analysis in their autumn forecast.

Follow-up to the IMF Annual Meetings on 24 September 2011, and the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting on 22 September 2011

The Council was informed by the presidency and the French delegation, in its capacity as G20 presidency, of the outcome of the meetings.

Preparation of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting on 14-15 October

The Council endorsed the EU terms of reference, which will form the basis of the EU's contribution to the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers on 14-15 October. The Government are content with the terms of reference, which emphasise the need for determined action to maintain financial stability, restore confidence, and support growth. The G20 meeting is expected to cover the following issues: responding effectively to the current challenges in the global economy through the G20 framework for growth; financial regulation; commodities; reform of the international monetary system; and climate change financing and development.

Preparation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Durban

Finance Ministers adopted conclusions on climate finance ahead of the Durban conference of the parties to be held 28 November to 9 December, 2011. The Government support these conclusions which reflect our position on climate finance.

Economic situation

Over breakfast, Finance Ministers received a de-brief of the previous evening's Eurogroup meeting, and held an exchange of views on the economic situation. I emphasised the importance of the euro area delivering a truly comprehensive solution to the situation in the euro area, which ring-fences vulnerable euro area countries, recapitalises Europe's banks and resolves uncertainty about Greece, ahead of the G20 summit in Cannes on 3-4 November.

Financial Assistance (Ireland)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): I would like to update Parliament on the loan to Ireland.

Ireland completed the third quarterly review of its International Monetary Fund and European Union programme of financial assistance on 2 September 2011, at which point the first instalment of the UK bilateral loan became available for drawdown.

Upon request, the Treasury has disbursed the first instalment of £403.37 million on 14 October 2011, with a maturity date of 15 April 2019.

HM Treasury will provide a further report to Parliament, as required under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010, at the end of this reporting period.

The Government believe that it is in our national interest that the Irish economy is successful and its banking system is stable. The Government continue to support Ireland's efforts to improve its economic situation.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Budgets

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I have today published a community budget prospectus which invites areas to express an interest in participating in two new pilot programmes. The first tests how local places can make best use of all the money that is spent in their area on public services on a wide range of problems. The second tests how this approach might be adapted to give neighbourhoods more control over the services that matter most to them.

I have placed a copy of the prospectus in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council, 10-11 October 2011

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council were held on 10-11 October in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

The FAC was chaired by Baroness Ashton. A provisional report of the meeting, and all conclusions adopted, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/125028.pdf

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Although BiH was not a formal agenda item, Ministers agreed conclusions which reaffirmed the EU's support for the continuation of the EU's military force's (EUFOR Althea) executive mandate. The conclusions also included a reference to "looking forward to discussions" on the future of the Office of the High Representative (OHR).

Belarus

Ministers agreed to renew the EU's restrictive measures against Belarus, and added 16 new names to the travel ban and assets-freeze list. There was broad agreement that the EU should not consider renewing a dialogue with the Belarusian authorities until all political prisoners have been released and rehabilitated. Ministers also endorsed ongoing work by Commissioner Stefan Fule on engaging civil society in Belarus.

Ukraine

Ministers expressed concern about the trial and upcoming verdict on Yulia Tymoshenko. There was a discussion about the impact the verdict might have on finalising the EU's association agreement with Ukraine.

The day after the FAC, Yulia Tymoshenko was sentenced to seven years in prison. Speaking after the verdict the Foreign Secretary said:

> "The conviction of the Ukrainian opposition politician, Yulia Tymoshenko, by a court in Kyiv is deeply concerning. Independent legal experts including the Danish Helsinki Committee have concluded that Ms Tymoshenko's trial was subject to numerous and serious violations of fundamental legal principles, in direct contradiction of common European values.
>
> "Ukraine says it wants to join the EU one day. The UK supports that objective. But that cannot happen until Ukraine can show that it adheres to the highest democratic standards, including respect for human rights, the rule of law and an independent, transparent and fair judicial process. The conviction of Ms Tymoshenko and the ongoing cases against other former Members of the Government call into question Ukraine's commitment to these values. This could pose a major obstacle to the signature and ratification of the association agreement and deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with the EU".

EU-China Summit

Ministers reviewed preparations for the 14th EU-China summit, which takes place in China on 25 October. The Foreign Secretary stressed the need for the EU to focus on increased market access for EU businesses. He also urged the EU to continue to raise human rights issues at the highest level, and underlined the importance of global co-operation on cyber security.

Southern Neighbourhood

Baroness Ashton set out the results of the Tunisian taskforce meeting of 28-29 September. She had co-chaired the meeting with the Prime Minister of Tunisia, which had also been attended by member states, European institutions, the European Investment Bank, the EBRD, the World Bank, the Africa Bank and representatives from the private sector. Around €4 billion was pledged to Tunisia over the next three years.

On Egypt, concern was expressed by many Ministers about the recent outbreaks of violence. There was broad agreement on the importance of protecting freedom of religion and belief.

Ministers agreed conclusions on Libya which:

> Reaffirmed the EU's support for the National Transition Council.

Welcomed the continuation of the operation to enforce UNSCR 1973 and ensure the protection of the Libyan population.

Welcomed the adoption of UNSCR 2009 and the return of Libya to the UN as represented by the National Transitional Council.

Stressed the need for all in Libya to respect all international obligations and the rule of law.

Expressed concern about the dissemination of conventional weapons in Libya.

Set out the EU's willingness to work under UN co-ordination to consider Libyan needs in the fields of democratisation, rule of law, institution-building, security sector reform and police training.

Ministers agreed conclusions on Syria which condemned the ongoing brutal repression by the Syrian regime. Ministers expressed disappointment with the failure of the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution against Syria. They reiterated their determination to continue with targeted sanctions against the Syrian regime.

On Yemen, Ministers agreed conclusions which stressed concern about the situation in the country. They called for President Saleh to sign and implement the Gulf Co-operation Council initiative. And they welcomed the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and urged the authorities in Yemen to act on its recommendations.

On the European neighbourhood policy, the Foreign Secretary and others stressed the need to hold out the possibility of meaningful market access to the neighbourhood, in exchange for real political and democratic reforms.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers agreed conclusions which reiterated their support for Baroness Ashton's efforts on behalf of the EU to re-launch the peace process. There was an appeal for both parties to resume negotiations under the terms set out in the quartet statement of 23 September.

Ministers expressed their disappointment with the recent settlement expansion in the East Jerusalem settlement of Gilo. Baroness Ashton briefed Ministers on the Quartet envoys' meeting of 9 October in Brussels and plans to invite the parties to meet in the coming days. The Foreign Secretary emphasised the need for continued EU unity in response to any resolutions proposed at the United Nations in New York.

Iran

The discussion on Iran focused on two areas: the EU's growing concern over human rights, and Iran's nuclear programme. On human rights, Ministers agreed to add 29 names to its sanctions list, in addition to the 32 officials previously agreed in April. On the nuclear issue, Baroness Ashton briefed Ministers on E3+3 talks in New York in the margin of the UN General Assembly and her meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister. She also outlined plans for taking forward talks with Iran. The Foreign Secretary made the following statement:

> "I welcome the EU's agreement today to impose restrictive measures on a further 29 Iranians responsible for grave human rights abuses. Those targeted include Government Ministers, members of the security forces, prison staff and judiciary responsible for serious human rights violations.
>
> "In recent months the human rights situation in Iran has continued to deteriorate. As we mark world day against the death penalty we should recall that Iran has now executed over 500 people this year, including a 17-year-old boy. The Government have violently suppressed protests over the mismanagement of a lake in north-west Iran, and families of a number of journalists have been arrested and harassed. We will continue to identify and list those who seriously violate the human rights of the Iranian people.
>
> "Today's decision sends a clear message to every individual on this list, and others in the Iranian regime, that we will not stand by. They will be held to account for their actions and should not involve themselves in the appalling abuses we continue to witness".

EU External Representation

Ministers had a brief informal exchange on EU external representation in international organisations. The Foreign Secretary said we supported effective external action by the EU, in accordance with the treaties. But we needed to ensure that this did not affect the balance of competences between the EU and member states; and that member states remained free to act where they had the right to do so. He agreed that the EAS should propose effective arrangements in line with these principles.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

The GAC was chaired by the Polish EU presidency (Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, State Secretary for European Affairs). A draft record of the meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/125036.pdf

Cohesion Policy

Ministers heard a presentation by Commissioner Hahn (regional policy) of proposals for rules on implementing the EU's policy on economic and social cohesion in 2012-2020.

Growth-Enhancing Measures

The presidency presented its report "Towards a European consensus on growth" (see link below).

http://pl2011.eu/sites/default/files/users/shared/spotkania_i_wydarzenia/presidency_report_on_growth.pdf

The report identifies potential growth-enhancing measures which might help the EU overcome the current economic crisis.

G20 Summit in Cannes

Ministers discussed with Commissioner Sefcovic (inter-institutional relations and administration) preparations for the G20 summit in Cannes on 3-4 November. The Commissioner set out proposed EU priorities: the eurozone and the global economic recovery; the resilience of the international monetary system; tackling commodity prices; providing a way forward for Doha and the WTO; development; food security; a strong message on climate change and Durban; and the proposed Financial Transaction Tax (FTT). I stressed that the UK was firmly against promoting a FTT at the G20 summit.

Preparation of the October European Council

Ahead of the GAC, the President of the Council, Van Rompuy, joined Ministers by video link to discuss preparations for the Council. He explained that the Council had been pushed back to Sunday 23 October to allow Heads of State and Government to consider issues relating to Greece, the European banks and the eurozone governance more comprehensively as a package. I argued that any future institutional changes to governance in the eurozone had to protect fully the interests of all 27 member states, and there had to be clear language to that effect in the European Council conclusions.

I also stressed the need for the Council conclusions to address some significant foreign policy developments, particularly Libya.

I will deposit copies of this note in the Libraries of both Houses. And I will also continue to update Parliament on future Foreign and General Affairs Councils.

HEALTH

Strategic Vision for Volunteering

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): The Government have today announced the launch of a strategic vision for volunteering for health and care. "Social action for health and well-being: building co-operative communities" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

The Government recognise that volunteers already make a tremendous contribution towards the health and care services and support within their communities, improving the quality and choice of services available in our country. We want to ensure that this wealth of activity is recognised, celebrated and strengthened and that we nurture and release the capability and capacity that exists within our communities.

This strategic vision for volunteering sets out the Government's long-term vision for social action, and in particular volunteering, in support of health and well-being. It replaces "Volunteering: involving people and communities in delivering and developing health and social care services", published in March 2010 and refreshes it to reflect health, public health and social care reforms and the coalition Government's big society agenda.

The vision highlights the valuable contribution volunteering and wider social action makes to every sphere of health, public health and social care, including prevention, the creation of people-centred and relationship-based services and improved patient and service user experience. It demonstrates how greater involvement of members of the public can help to develop support mechanisms and services that genuinely meet people's needs, are more personal, strength-based and community-owned.

The strategic vision aims to:

embed a deeper understanding, genuine appreciation and awareness of volunteering and its benefits across all of health, public health and social care;

recognise the enormous voluntary effort that contributes to health and well-being and to health, public health and care services in this country and ensure that this is recognised, celebrated and strengthened in the process of system and service reform;

ensure that services are built around the strengths and assets that people (including those with health and care needs, carers and communities) can bring to them, through volunteering as well as co-production and shared decision making; and

encourage the various parts of the health, public health and social care systems to recognise the value of volunteering in relation to their respective priorities and consider, from a more informed stance, where a more strategic approach and coherent investment in volunteering would lead to improved quality, equity and outcomes.

As part of the overarching approach of Government outlined in the "Giving" White Paper, Cm 8084 the Department will take a facilitative and enabling role in pursuing this vision, working with partners inside and outside Government to: raise awareness of the potential and added value of volunteering in health and care; improve the evidence base for investment in volunteering in this field; and improve access to best practice and opportunities for shared learning.

JUSTICE

Crimestoppers Initiative (Prisons)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): Today, I am advising the House that on 22 September, we announced the launch of an enhanced Crimestoppers initiative in prisons. Crimestoppers will now report direct to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) all prison-related matters, enabling a faster response. The launch was accompanied by a poster and leaflet campaign advertising the new arrangements and this will be followed by other campaigns on key issues that effect security in prisons. All printing is being undertaken through a contract with prison industries, providing useful employment for prisoners.

NOMS is determined to disrupt the criminal behaviour of prisoners. A key element is the ability to gather good quality intelligence and act quickly on information received. The Crimestoppers initiative provides a valuable source of intelligence with a particular focus on drugs and mobile phones. This will enhance NOMS' ability to address these threats.

This initiative is a very good example of the invaluable work that the third sector can undertake in prisons.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 18 October 2011

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty (Northern Ireland)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Miss Chloe Smith): From 1 November 2011, the rate of APD for direct long-haul passengers departing from airports in Northern Ireland will be cut to the short-haul rate, which is currently £12 in economy and £24 in business and first class.

This measure is a response to the unique challenge facing Northern Ireland and is designed to ensure local airports remain competitive, demonstrating the Government's commitment to stimulating and rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy.

In parallel the Government are also launching a process for the devolution of aspects of APD to the Northern Ireland Assembly to provide a lasting solution to the unique circumstances Northern Ireland faces.

Devolution of APD to Northern Ireland will require primary legislation. The precise scope of devolution will be agreed in close consultation with the Northern Ireland Executive.

UK's Counter-Terrorist Asset-Freezing Regime

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 (the Act), the Treasury is required to report quarterly to Parliament on the operation of the UK's asset-freezing regime mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

This is the third report under the Act and it covers the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011[1].

This report also covers the UK implementation of the UN al-Qaeda asset-freezing regime.

As of 30 September 2011, a total of just over £200,000[2] of funds were held frozen in the UK. This covers funds frozen under the UK's domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373, and also funds frozen under the UN al-Qaeda asset-freezing regime, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1989.

(1) UK's domestic terrorist asset freezing regime under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010

As of 30 September 2011, a total of 84 accounts containing just over £100,000 were frozen in the UK under the domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime. No new accounts were frozen during the quarter.

Operation of the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010

Asset-freezing designations and reviews

In the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011, the Treasury made no new designations under the Act. No reviews of existing designations were completed during the quarter.

Licensing

A total of 10 licences were issued this quarter under the Act in relation to six persons subject to an asset-freeze.

In addition to issuing licences relating to a specific person, the Treasury may also issue general licences, which apply to all persons designated under a particular regime or regimes.

No general licences were issued this quarter under the Act.

Legal Challenges

Two legal challenges against designations made under both the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 and the Act were ongoing in the quarter covered by this report.

(2) UN Al-Qaeda Asset-Freezing Regime

The UN al-Qaeda asset-freezing regime, established under UNSCR 1267, is implemented in the UK by Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002. Following the split of the UNSCR 1267 al-Qaeda and Taliban regime into two separate regimes in June, this quarterly report will cover just the UN al-Qaeda regime mandated by UNSCR 1989.

As of 30 September 2011, a total of 41 accounts containing just over £100,000[3] were frozen in the UK under the al-Qaeda asset-freezing regime. The unfreezing of 43 accounts since the previous quarter was a result of a number of delistings by the UN (see the listings section below).

Listings

During this quarter, the EU added six people and two entities to the list in annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002.

Six people and three entities were delisted during the quarter. Of these, five individuals and three entities had UK connections.

Licences

One individual licence was issued in this quarter in relation to a person subject to an asset freeze under the al-Qaeda asset-freezing regime.

Seventeen licences were revoked in respect of the five individuals who were delisted.

(3) Proceedings

In the quarter to 30 September 2011, no proceedings were initiated in respect of breaches of the prohibitions of the Act or the Al-Qaida and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects the most up-to-date account balances available and includes approximately $64,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 05/10/11.

[3] Includes approximately $64,000 of suspected terrorist funds in the UK.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Off-Grid Energy Market

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): In my statement of 21 January, I informed the House that I wrote to ask the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to bring forward its off-grid energy market study. I subsequently advised the House that the OFT had agreed to this. I can now report that the OFT has today published its findings from the market study into the off-grid energy market.

The market study focuses on the three main off-grid energy sources: heating oil, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and micro-generation. The study examined the available evidence to find few competition concerns in the heating oil market with 97% of consumers having access to four or more independent suppliers. Nevertheless, OFT will continue to look at any evidence of specific market abuse and will take action as necessary.

The study did find that action is needed to protect heating oil consumers in some areas. In September the OFT acted against some heating oil price comparison websites as to their independence—consumers need to be confident that price comparisons are what they seem. The OFT also has particular concerns where heating oil suppliers charge a different price on delivery from that quoted when the order was taken. A successful prosecution by trading standards in August for a supplier misquoting prices has affirmed the law. The OFT is actively examining a number of practices and is engaging with industry to ensure consumer law compliance and will take swift enforcement action as necessary.

Different issues arise in the LPG market where the study has commented on the generally positive initial impact of the Competition Commission Orders from 2009 to make it easier for consumers to switch supplier and that the OFT will continue to monitor this area. The study also comments upon consumer issues in the micro-generation market. Here the Government are supporting the microgeneration certification scheme (MCS), an industry-led certification scheme with an OFT-level consumer code of practice. Only MCS certified installers and products are eligible for the renewable heat premium payment grant scheme.

The study recognises the hugely challenging conditions in December 2010 with 20% of annual heating oil demand being delivered in three working weeks of that month when snow and ice disrupted the road network. Ahead of next winter, my Department has been working with industry and consumer bodies, in a national campaign launched in mid-September, to encourage heating oil customers to order early and ensure they are well prepared for winter. We have also reminded the downstream oil industry to ensure that they have sufficient salt to maintain access at their terminals and depots.

Work by the Department for Transport to improve winter resilience has ensured that the country will enter this winter season well prepared—this includes having a national strategic salt reserve; setting up a salt stock portal to monitor how much stock local highway authorities hold; as well as making sure councils make best use of their salt supplies. While we have to acknowledge there may be some transport disruption in the event of severe winter weather, this work ensures that the country's transport systems are better equipped to cope.

I welcome the OFT's action to address the concerns of consumers and its continued engagement in these markets that complement our continuing wider work to improve resilience ahead of next winter.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I am today publishing an action plan for tree health and plant biosecurity.

Biosecurity threats to Britain's trees and forests are on the increase. To improve the levels of preparedness, we have developed an action plan which sets out a coherent, joined up approach to plant health strategy. This work sets out an agenda for actions to be taken now and in the future:

to minimise the risk of new threats from entering the UK;

to enable us to understand more about the threats we face;

to work with society to make it more aware of threats and pathways;

to identify positive steps which professionals and other stakeholders can take to improve the resilience of trees, woodlands, and forests; and

to ensure an effective evidence base is developed and maintained to inform decisions.

The recommendations of this action plan will be used to steer future evidence and research priorities and activities.

Copies of the "Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan" are available in the House Library and on DEFRA, FERA and the Forestry Commission's websites.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Consulate-General (Calgary, Canada)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to update the House on recent changes to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas network. As I said in the House on 11 May 2011, there will be no strategic shrinkage of Britain's diplomatic influence overseas. I made it clear in a speech in London on 8 September that I intend to strengthen the long term capability and international effectiveness of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and to improve our country's capacity to pursue effective foreign policy for years and even decades to come.

So I am pleased to confirm to Parliament the opening in 2012 of a British consulate-general in Calgary, as announced by the Prime Minister during his visit to Canada on 22 September. The new consulate-general will maintain our existing UK trade and investment operation in Calgary, while adding significant new capability for pursuing our wider political and environmental interests within this dynamic province. This measure underscores my determination to extend the UK's global reach and strengthen our influence in the world. It also supports my commitment to deepen and refresh our relationship with Canada, an important ally and long-standing friend of the UK. I intend to appoint a fully accredited, resident British consul-general to take up position from summer 2012.

The province of Alberta is Canada's third largest internal economy, and has led Canadian growth for 20 years. This growth is fuelling commercial opportunities across a diverse range of sectors, including telecoms, agrifood, biotech, chemicals, electronics, energy and corporate services. British companies are heavily involved in the automotive sector, financial services, creative media, chemicals, advanced engineering, IT, and healthcare, as well as in energy and power. Some 50 Albertan companies have UK investments. Opening a consulate-general will add value to our existing trade and investment operations in support of British commercial interests.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will meet the cost of appointing and maintaining a resident British consul-general in Calgary through the reallocation of existing resources and without any detrimental impact on front-line activities.

Arrangements for UK visas and consular services in the region are unaltered. Our consulate-general in Vancouver will continue to provide a consular service in the region, including for Alberta.

The strength of our embassy network is a signal to the world of our engagement and commitment to international peace and security. Through strengthening and in some places by expanding Britain's diplomatic network beyond Europe, we will ensure that the UK has the necessary reach and capacity to respond quickly and effectively when British companies need our assistance or British nationals are in danger. The extension and strengthening of our global diplomatic network, with staff who have the necessary abilities and diplomatic skills, are key objectives of this Government and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have made funding these goals a priority.

HEALTH

NHS Blood and Transplant Commercial Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): The Department's commercial review of NHS blood and transplant (NHSBT) has now concluded.

The review was an outcome of the Department of Health's review of arm's length bodies (ALBs), which concluded that there were strong arguments for retaining the majority of NHSBT's functions within a single national system. However, it also concluded that there could be opportunities for more cost-effective operations and commercial arrangement within the divisions of NHSBT.

The review examined NHSBT's non-donor facing activities, including, estates, testing, processing and logistics, with the aim of helping NHSBT further improve the efficiency of its operations.

The review has made a number of recommendations to support the continued improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation, which includes working with NHS and other organisations to make more efficient use of voluntarily donated blood.

There are nine recommendations from the review:

> that more work, with strategic leadership from the Department of Health and the Welsh Government, should be done both at national and trust level to support trusts, in achieving and maintaining best practice, to reduce the inappropriate use of red cells, platelets and fresh frozen plasma; this would in turn reduce demand and direct costs on NHSBT;
>
> that NHSBT should work with internal and external stakeholders, and publicise its operational and technical data requirements at the trust interface, so that the development of independent stock and operational systems at trusts remain compatible with NHSBT systems;
>
> that NHSBT should continue to develop its pilot studies on integrated transfusion services and should publish the findings and results;
>
> that as NHSBT pilots and launches services with particular trusts, it should maintain a clear segregation (in accounting and reporting) between its developing transfusion services and its core blood supply service;
>
> that NHSBT should monitor alternative provider capability, particularly if there are "make or buy" decisions. Before investing in development projects, NHSBT should ensure it checks whether products or services are already available from existing providers;
>
> that in its current investigation of the requirements for the NHS organ donor register, NHSBT should ensure it has access to all necessary skills and resources to ensure the register is successfully developed and is fit for purpose;
>
> the Department of Health should pursue opportunities for efficiencies within the UK blood services with the other UK Health Departments;
>
> that NHSBT should ensure complete transparency in its financial reporting between its different services and its separate funding sources. The Department of Health should review whether any formal changes to its financial instructions to NHSBT are required to facilitate this; and
>
> that the Department of Health reviews and oversees the mechanism for setting the blood price. The new process to be agreed with NHSBT and the other key stakeholders as a method that continues to command the confidence of NHSBT's customers, takes account of blood policy and safety requirements, drives improvements in operational and financial efficiency and is transparent.

A copy of "NHS Blood and Transplant Commercial Review" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Extradition Review

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am today announcing the publication of an independent review of the UK's extradition arrangements, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library. The review was announced to Parliament on 8 September 2010.

The coalition's Government's "Programme for Government" document, published on 20 May 2010, stated that:

> "We will review the operation of the Extradition Act—and the US/UK extradition treaty—to make sure it is even-handed".

There are a number of areas of the UK's extradition arrangements which have attracted significant controversy in recent years. The Government understand that these are longstanding concerns and I accordingly asked the independent panel to consider the following issues:

> the breadth of Secretary of State discretion in an extradition case;
>
> the operation of the European arrest warrant, including the way in which those of its safeguards which are optional have been transposed into UK law;
>
> whether the forum bar to extradition should be commenced;
>
> whether the US-UK extradition treaty is unbalanced;

> whether requesting states should be required to provide prima facie evidence.

The review panel has reached the following conclusions:

> Improvements to the EAW can be made to ensure it functions more effectively through both legislative amendments and enhanced dialogue and co-operation at EU-level;
>
> The forum bars to extradition should not be introduced; however, guidance for prosecutors on shared jurisdiction should be agreed and published;
>
> The UK's extradition arrangements with the US are not unbalanced. There is no practical difference between the information submitted by the UK and the US;
>
> Requesting states should not be required to provide prima facie evidence when making a request to the UK; however, the Government should periodically review the designation of extradition partners;
>
> The breadth of the Home Secretary's involvement in extradition should not be extended. Instead the panel recommends that cases in which a supervening event occurs after the end of the extradition process should be considered by the High Court rather than by the Secretary of State.

The Government will carefully examine the review panel's report and will announce what action is to be taken in due course.

JUSTICE

Lasting Power of Attorney Donees

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): Under section 10(2) of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (the Act), an individual who is bankrupt may not be appointed as donee of a lasting power of attorney (LPA) in relation to P's property and affairs.

The bankruptcy of a donee is also one of the prescribed grounds for an objection to be made to the Public Guardian against the registration of a lasting power of attorney, where the power relates to P's property and affairs.

Baroness Ashton of Upholland made the following statement in Committee Stage during the Act's passage through Parliament:

> "We have therefore decided that the Office of the Public Guardian will check to see if prospective financial attorneys are bankrupt when an LPA is to be registered. That information will be available to the Office of the Public Guardian throughout and should make it unnecessary for the donee to agree a statement to that effect or for it to be included on the notification. If the donee is bankrupt, then the LPA is invalid. That will achieve the noble Earl's objective" [*Official Report, House of Lords,* 27 January 2005; Vol. 668, c. 1417-1418.]

In the light of this statement, and although there is no statutory obligation to carry out these extra insolvency checks, this has been the practice of the Office of the Public Guardian since the implementation of the Act in 2007.

The Public Guardian has recently made an assessment of the effectiveness and value of this checking process. From 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, over 152,000 LPAs were registered and subject to a search on the ISBR. Of all these checks however, only one attorney was found to have been bankrupt at the point of registration. In addition, these checks can only ever identify bankruptcy at the point of registration—not at any other point in the ongoing life of the LPA as a legal document.

Given the nugatory work and the additional bureaucracy, this practice will cease with immediate effect. Objections to registration of an LPA on the grounds of a donee's bankruptcy may still be made and in such circumstances the Public Guardian will not register the instrument in line with the Act's requirements.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 19 October 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Reform

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): I wish to update hon. Members on progress towards the reform of national planning policy.

The Localism Bill, which has completed its report stage in the House of Lords, makes a significant transfer of power over planning matters from central and regional government to local communities. To enable these powers to be used, national planning policy must be made more accessible; in the course of the last decade, national policy has grown to over 1,000 pages in volume—a significant barrier to the engagement of local residents and their community representatives.

Our reforms are intended to simplify the system, strengthen local participation and to help achieve sustainable development. The planning system has always enshrined the principle that the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development should be considered in a balanced way—and it will continue to do so.

In December 2010, my Department published a call for evidence and in July 2011 issued a draft new national planning policy framework. The 12-week consultation period on the draft framework closed on 17 October. We will now carefully consider all of the submissions that have been made.

I have asked the Communities and Local Government Select Committee to consider and make suggestions on the draft. We will also take fully into account the comments of hon. Members in a debate to be held in the House of Commons in Government time on 20 October, and in the House of Lords on 27 October, as well as the comments made in the debates during the proceedings on the Localism Bill.

Having fully considered the suggestions made, the Government will then publish the revised text taking into account representations that have been made and a summary of responses to the consultation. The Government are committed to the publication of this final version of the framework by 31 March 2012, but intend to do so well ahead of that time.

The framework aims to strengthen local decision making and reinforce the importance of local plans. We will therefore work closely with local authorities to ensure that appropriate transitional arrangements are in place before the new framework comes into force.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fuel Poverty Interim Report

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): In March 2011, I announced the appointment of Professor John Hills of the London School of Economics to lead an independent review of the fuel poverty definition and target. Professor Hills was asked to look at fuel poverty from first principles: considering the nature of the issues at the core of fuel poverty, including the extent to which fuel poverty is distinct from poverty, what the effects of fuel poverty are, and how best to measure it.

Since the review was launched. Professor Hills and his team have gathered, working closely with stakeholders, and analysed evidence, and I am pleased to draw it to the attention of both Houses that he will be publishing the independent review of fuel poverty interim report at 12.00 pm today on the Hills review website[1].

I am grateful for all the work Professor Hills and his team has done to put together this substantive interim report. My officials and I will review the report carefully: and, alongside other stakeholders, we will be discussing the questions raised with Professor Hills in greater detail over the coming months.

I would encourage my parliamentary colleagues and stakeholders to do the same, as Professor Hills and his team further develop their findings towards the publication of the final report, which I look forward to receiving in early 2012.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/fuel_poverty/hills_review/hills_review.aspx

JUSTICE

Cost Protection for Litigants (Environmental Judicial Review Cases)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am publishing the consultation paper "Cost Protection for Litigants in Environmental Judicial Review Cases" on 19 October 2011.

This is a formal consultation exercise undertaken by the Ministry of Justice to seek views on the Government's proposals to codify the current case law on protective costs orders (PCOs) in relation to judicial review claims which fall under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the "Aarhus Convention"), including those covered by the Public Participation Directive (Directive 2003/35/EC) (the "PPD"). PCOs are orders developed by the courts which are designed to set a predetermined limit on a claimant's exposure to a defendant's costs.

The courts currently retain discretion on both the question of whether a PCO should be granted and the level at which it should be set. The Government have accepted for some time that it would be in the interests of applicants in environmental judicial review cases to provide greater clarity about the level of costs through a codification of the rules on PCOs which sets out the circumstances in which a PCO will be granted and the level at which it will be made.

The proposals in this consultation are designed to establish the basic principles for rules setting out the nature and content of a PCO in a "standard case" and how far, and in what circumstances, it will be possible to depart from the "standard case".

To keep the overall level of costs down it is also proposed that where a cap on the claimants' exposure is granted there should also be a linked cap on the liability of the defendant for the claimants' costs (known as a "cross-cap").

Copies of the consultation paper are available online, at: www.justice.gov.uk.

The consultation period will be from 19 October 2011 until 18 January 2012 and I will make a further statement regarding the response shortly after the consultation period ends.

CABINET OFFICE

Cabinet Secretary's Report

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I am placing in the Libraries of both Houses the report by the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Gus O'Donnell, into allegations against my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox).

My right hon. Friend resigned last week as Defence Secretary accepting that he had mistakenly allowed the distinction between personal interest and Government activities to become blurred.

I accepted my right hon. Friend's resignation from Government and his reasons for resigning while making clear that as Defence Secretary he had implemented fundamental changes that will help to ensure that our armed forces are fully equipped to meet the challenges of the modern era. The report by the Cabinet Secretary confirms that my right hon. Friend did breach the ministerial code.

This Government have already introduced changes that significantly increase Government transparency including publishing lists of ministerial meetings with external organisations and all procurement over £500. The permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence has already accepted that there should have been much tighter procedures within the Department and is taking steps to strengthen them to ensure that the ministerial code is properly adhered to.

The Cabinet Secretary has recommended further strengthening of procedures across Government. I have accepted these recommendations and the Cabinet Secretary will write to permanent secretaries setting this out.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 20 October 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Abolition of Regional Strategies

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): As part of their stated commitment to protecting the environment, the Government decided to carry out environmental assessments of the revocation of each of the existing regional strategies, on a voluntary basis.

It is the Government's clear policy intention to revoke existing regional strategies outside London, which impose housing targets on local communities and put pressure on councils to review the green belt in 30 towns across the country. But this is subject to the outcome of the environmental assessments and will not be undertaken until the Secretary of State and Parliament have had the opportunity to consider the findings of the assessments.

I wish to inform the House that the Government are undertaking public consultation on the environmental reports, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Renewables Obligation Banding Review

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): I am today announcing the publication of the renewables obligation banding review. This consultation looks at the levels of support renewable technologies will receive under the renewables obligation from 2013 to 2017 (from 2014 for offshore wind).

We need a surge of investment in low-carbon energy sources to help get us off the fossil fuel price hook, keep the lights on, and keep bills down. The package proposed in the banding review will bring forward investment, securing the UK's position as a global leader in the renewable energy sector, and supporting the transition to a green economy.

The UK has some of the renewable resources in the world, and the proposals in the consultation aim to make the most of those resources. The package of measures we propose will ensure we keep on track to meet our 2020 renewable energy target, in line with our vision for renewables published in July's UK renewable energy road map.

At the same time, we are paying attention to consumer bills. It is vital that our support for renewable electricity both encourages investment and represents value for money for consumers. So the banding levels we are proposing will cost less than if we remained with the current levels of support, while delivering more renewable energy.

To do this, our proposals encourage the most efficient use of UK renewable resources. We are proposing to remove excess support from technologies that would be overcompensated by the current levels, and maximise deployment of the cheapest renewable technologies, such as energy from waste and co-firing.

For offshore wind, where the UK is the international market leader, we are working closely with the supply chain, developers and finance community to drive down costs by around 40% by 2020. As part of that trajectory, we are reducing support in this banding review by 5% in 2015, and another 5% in 2016, ensuring that consumers benefit from these cost reductions, and ensuring that we are able to maximise deployment of this key technology—providing the potential for a 18GW market by 2020.

We should not be supporting inefficient generation, and our proposed support for onshore wind will target only the most cost-effective onshore wind farm deployment, encouraging developers to build in places where the wind is strongest.

We support predictable and flexible biomass electricity generation. Our support focuses on cheaper and transitional biomass technologies by introducing new bands for biomass conversion and enhanced co-firing—making the most of our existing generation assets, and therefore reducing the cost to consumers. We are also maintaining current levels of support for dedicated new build biomass until 2016 in order to encourage shovel-ready projects to begin construction, securing significant investment and green jobs.

This consultation also reiterates the coalition's agreement to promote marine technologies, recognising that marine energy has the potential to meet a large proportion of our electricity demand by 2050. Our proposals provide a clear signal that we want to see large-scale, commercial deployment of wave and tidal technologies in UK waters, cementing the UK's position as the global leader in this technology.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The next Agriculture and Fisheries Council is on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 October, in Luxembourg. I shall represent the UK on agriculture matters on Thursday, accompanied by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister with responsibility for agriculture and food. On Friday the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister with responsibility for natural environment and fisheries, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) will be representing the United Kingdom on the fisheries items. Richard Lochhead MSP, Michelle O'Neil MLA and Alun Davies AM will also attend.

Council will deal with agricultural business on the first day. It will open with a presentation by the Commission of the new proposals for CAP reform before member states are given the opportunity to give initial reactions during two full table rounds. The first table round will focus on the proposals for direct payments to farmers and rural development. The second table round will cover the more technical aspects of the common market organisation and control measures.

There are two other agriculture items on the main agenda. The first relates to distribution of food to the most deprived persons in the Union. This returns to Council after discussion in September, with a revised Commission proposal that now has a social policy as well as CAP legal base. The second item relates to the international wine organisation (OIV), that has its annual meeting later in October. The Commission wishes to lead for the EU in an area of exclusive competence and will propose a mandate for it to do so.

Finally, on agricultural issues, there is an AOB item on the welfare of laying hens. The EU agreed to phase out battery cages for hens for egg production some years ago and the deadline for implementation is the end of 2011. The Commission will present data on how far member states have progressed towards compliance.

The second day of Council will deal with the two fisheries items on the agenda. The first item relates to the seeking of agreement on allocation of fishing opportunities in the Baltic sea. The second item sees the opening of the EU/Norway annual consultations on fishing opportunities for 2012.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan (Monthly Progress Report)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the 10th progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

Former President Rabbani's death at the hands of a suicide bomber on 20 September has drawn worldwide condemnation. It is too early to draw definitive conclusions on the long-term effect his death will have on the peace process, but it may prove significant. Much will depend on his successor as chair of the High Peace Council and the continuing efforts of the Afghan Government to achieve national unity and a political solution to Afghanistan's problems.

On 13 September, as part of their campaign to undermine the peace process, insurgents attacked the US embassy, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) headquarters and an Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) base in Kabul. The attacks were not successful and neither the US embassy nor ISAF HQ perimeters were breached. Eleven civilians were tragically killed in the attacks. However the ANSF led an effective response: they successfully neutralised the threat and demonstrated a high degree of operational competence.

With UK support, the Government of Afghanistan continue to improve their delivery of basic services. The new national priority programme for local governance will help local government institutions deliver improved basic services to communities, while a UK-funded Afghan Government programme is bringing opportunities for licit livelihoods to more people. Both will help to reinforce successful security transition. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Government of Afghanistan continue to work towards agreeing a new programme of support, and we are hopeful agreement will be reached this autumn, allowing the UK and the international community to resume routine funding to the Afghan Government.

The insurgency is resilient and, as demonstrated by the recent high profile attacks in Kabul, remains a threat. However, such incidents rarely achieve their tactical effect and are designed to create a perception of increased violence and instability that it is not reflective of the progress being made in much of the country. We should not allow these attacks to distort the many examples of significant security improvements or overshadow continued progress to governance and development objectives. There remain many challenges ahead but there is also much encouraging progress.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 makes provision for the constitution of the four boundary commissions, including the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland. Under paragraph 2 of schedule 1 to the Act, each commission must consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and two other members appointed by the Secretary of State. I have extended the appointment of Mr Richard Mackenzie as a member of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland until 30 September 2013.

TRANSPORT

Greater Anglia Rail Franchise

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I can today announce that Abellio Greater Anglia Ltd has been awarded the Greater Anglia (Short) franchise.

The new franchise will begin operation on Sunday 5 February 2012. It will operate for 29 months (32 rail industry periods).

Bids were received from Abellio Greater Anglia Ltd (NV Nederlandse Spoorwegen), Eastern Railway Ltd (Go-Ahead Group Plc), and Stagecoach Anglia Trains Ltd (Stagecoach Group Plc).

Abellio Greater Anglia Ltd has been chosen to run trains on the network, which operates across Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. The franchise will also play a significant role in transport for the London 2012 games providing crucial services to the Olympic park area.

The terms of the contract the Government have agreed with the winning bidder will deliver a series of improvements for passengers during the 29-month franchise.

These include providing better station and ticket facilities and measures to improve passenger information. A text messaging service to keep passengers informed if service disruption occurs will be introduced. New information desks will be provided at major stations including London Liverpool street, Cambridge, Norwich, Ipswich and Stansted airport.

The new franchise will make it easier for passengers to buy tickets, including:

extending Oyster pay-as-you go between London Liverpool street and all stations to Shenfield, and stations to Hertford East;

improvements to ticket vending machines; and

introducing mobile phone and print-at-home ticketing facilities.

Abellio Greater Anglia Ltd has also committed to provide an additional 600 car park spaces (subject to planning approvals), more cycle storage facilities and deliver a number of other measures to improve the service to customers including deep cleaning of stations and trains.

The train company will take over station leases from Network Rail, taking on responsibility for all repairs and renewals at stations. This accords with the Government's overall franchise reform programme which advocates transfer of more responsibility for stations to train operators as the passenger-facing side of the rail industry.

To date, only overall figures for the performance of the franchise as a whole have been published. From the start of the new franchise, Abellio Greater Anglia Ltd will start publishing a breakdown of punctuality figures by route giving passengers more transparency over the performance of the lines they use. The reliability requirements for the new franchise are also more demanding than the previous one.

When the franchise is renewed again in July 2014, the contract is expected to be 15 years in length. This forthcoming franchise will provide the opportunity to seek further improvements for passengers. We also intend to draw on the work of Sir Roy McNulty in setting the terms of the franchise with the aim of reducing costs and improving efficiency.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 21 October 2011

TREASURY

Extraordinary ECOFIN (22 October 2011)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): An extraordinary meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 22 October 2011.

Finance Ministers will discuss preparation of the 23 October European Council.

The current draft European Council conclusions include language on:

> economic policy: growth; energy, research and innovation; investment; economic governance; the European semester; financial regulation; ratification of the European financial stability facility; and external trade;
>
> preparation for the Cannes G20 summit;
>
> climate change; and
>
> foreign policy.

ECOFIN is likely to focus its attention on the situation in the euro area. I will continue to emphasise the importance of the euro area delivering a truly comprehensive solution to the situation in the euro area, which ring-fences vulnerable euro area countries, recapitalises Europe's banks and resolves uncertainty about Greece, ahead of the G20 summit in Cannes on 3-4 November.

HEALTH

Response to Offender Personality Disorder Consultation

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I am publishing today a joint Department of Health and Ministry of Justice response to the public consultation on an offender personality disorder pathway implementation plan, which was completed on 17 May 2011.

The consultation set out the Government's plans to reshape services, interventions and treatments for offenders with severe personality disorders. There were 91 responses to the consultation almost all of which supported the proposed approach.

The Government will now begin to take forward the pathway approach, which will enable the complex needs of high-risk offenders to be addressed more effectively. We will start to decommission the dangerous and severe personality disorder (DSPD) pilot sites in the NHS, the first being the unit based in Broadmoor high secure psychiatric hospital. The patients currently being held in these facilities will continue to be treated in the level of security necessary for the risk they present and no individual will be moved to a lower-level of security as a result of these changes. Professional judgments on an individual's appropriate level of security will continue to be made as part of the normal assessment arrangements.

The new pathway will enable the complex needs of high-risk offenders to be addressed more effectively. Interventions and treatment will be provided earlier and in the most suitable locations, additional support will be given to those who have completed programmes and ongoing supervision will be enhanced. These plans strengthen public protection arrangements and improvements in psychological health outcomes through new collaborative services across the national health service and national offender management service.

"Response to Offender Personality Disorder Consultation" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Provider Work Programme Information Sessions

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): From 24 October 2011 employment and support allowance claimants eligible to volunteer for the Work programme will be referred to a Work programme information session. These claimants include those in the work-related activity group, with a work capability assessment prognosis greater than six months. Other claimants eligible to volunteer for the Work programme who are not subject to work-related activity can opt to attend an information session, such as those in the Support group.

This change seeks to make claimants aware of the opportunities on offer from Work programme providers. It also gives providers greater ability to reach individual claimants who may not be aware of the support they can access, and helps providers to manage their resources more effectively.

We will introduce these information sessions on a phased basis, beginning on 24 October 2011 in the east midlands (contract package area 2), with national coverage by the end of November 2011.

We are not prescribing how the sessions should be carried out but providers will have to give the Government clear details about their marketing plans for information sessions (for example, timings, individual or group sessions, and group sizes.)

Additionally, these information sessions will encourage partnership working between Jobcentre Plus and providers at a local-level.

We want claimants to engage with their provider on a voluntary basis. In exceptional circumstances, where a claimant refuses to engage without good reason, the personal adviser can require them to attend an information session.

When a claimant decides to volunteer for the Work programme, they will be participating in it for up to two years, so providers have a real chance to address the serious disadvantages some of our claimants face in the labour market.

When claimants have attended their information session they will follow up with their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser to agree next steps.

Petitions

Monday 10 October 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Leacroft surgery (Crawley)

The Petition of residents of Crawley,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned by the current proposals to close a general practitioner's surgery in the Crawley Borough Ward of West Green

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible action to ensure that Leacroft surgery is able to maintain health service provision in the area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Henry Smith, Official Report,* 7 September 2011; Vol. 532, c. 517.*]*

[P000953]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health, received 19 September 2011:

The issue raised in the petition is a local matter and my Department will bring it to the attention of the local NHS.

TRANSPORT

Bridgwater by-pass

The Petition of residents of Bridgwater,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that EDF Energy should not be granted permission to proceed with the Hinckley Point C Nuclear Development without first constructing a northern bypass for Bridgwater from Junction 23 of the M5 to connect with the A39 west of Cannington; that such a bypass would ensure that construction traffic would avoid Bridgwater's already over-congested roads and leave the whole area a worthwhile legacy after the construction of the Hinckley Point C Nuclear Development is complete; and that the Petitioners believe that a bypass would render an EDF facility and the Bridgwater Gateway Development an unnecessary and unjustifiable intrusion on farmland close to the residential area of North Petherton.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to ensure that permission for EDF Energy to proceed with the Hinckley Point C Nuclear Development should be conditional on the construction of a northern bypass for Bridgwater from Junction 23 of the M5 to connect with the A39 west of Cannington.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, Official Report,* 19 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 906.]

[P000946]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 3 October 2011:

It would be for the developer to put forward a transport strategy as part of any development consent application, for consideration by the Infrastructure Planning Commission. Interested parties would be able to make representations on the application through the planning process.

There are clear statutory and policy frameworks in place governing arrangements for processing and determining planning applications and applications for development consent for major infrastructure projects—including matters relating to conditions, obligations and requirements. It is important that these are adhered to. It would be inappropriate for the Government to comment on any specific aspect of a prospective planning or development consent application, or speculate about conditions that may or may not be applied by the decision-maker to any eventual consent.

Dartford Crossing Tolls

The Petition of residents of Dartford and readers of the Dartford Messenger newspaper,

Declares that the Petitioners are opposed to any increase in tolls charged for the Dartford Crossing.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Transport not to increase tolls on the Dartford Crossing and to reconsider the emergency measures to lift the barriers during severe congestion and extend the local residents discount scheme.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Gareth Johnson, Official Report,* Wednesday 14 September 2011; Vol. 532, c. 1146 .*]*

[P000960]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 3 October 2011:

The Government have not yet made any decisions regarding the future ownership of the Dartford Crossing.

I understand that several key factors need to be considered in the decision-making process including whether a new concession structure would provide better value for the taxpayer, the flexibility needed to provide possible additional crossing capacity in the future, and how user charging policies would be affected.

The Budget statement (22 June), confirmed that decisions will be made on the possibility of providing future additional crossing capacity and the possibilities for letting out a concession at the conclusion of the spending review.

High Speed Rail

The Petition of residents of South Northamptonshire and others,

Declares that the Petitioners are strongly opposed to the proposed high speed railway; declares that the Petitioners believe it to be a massive waste of money; declares that it will destroy miles of beautiful countryside, thousands of homes and villages; and further declares that there is no business case or environmental case for this railway and upgrading existing rail networks is a better alternative.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reconsider its support for the proposed high speed railway and support the upgrading of existing rail networks.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrea Leadsom, Official Report,* 14 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 585.]

[P000944]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 3 October 2011:

The documents published to support the recent public consultation on high speed rail set out the Government's case that a national high speed rail network would offer a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the way we travel in Britain and would provide a step-change in rail capacity, speed and connectivity.

Analysis carried out by HS2 Ltd has indicated that the Government's proposed Y-shaped network would generate monetised economic benefits with a net present value of around £44 billion and the first phase (from London to the West Midlands) alone would support the creation of more than 40,000 jobs. We estimate that over 50% of the benefits of HS2 would fall to cities and regions outside of London and the South East, helping boost long-term and sustainable economic growth and regeneration in the areas that need it most.

In respect of upgrades to the existing network, the Government are committed to one of the most far reaching programmes of rail capacity improvements since the Victorian era, despite the pressure on the public finances caused by the deficit. However, this will not be enough to deal with capacity pressure of the future which is why we have put forward our high speed rail proposals. Work carried out by Atkins on strategic alternatives to high speed rail concluded that major enhancement packages could provide only a fraction of the potential benefits of a national high speed rail network, while potentially creating significant disruption for travellers during the construction period and creating risks for service reliability.

In addition, the Government's objectives for high speed rail are broader than can be achieved by simply upgrading current lines. High speed rail would offer potential to release capacity on the existing network, to promote economic growth and regeneration, and to enhance connectivity between inter-urban, urban and international networks, for example via new links to Crossrail and HS1.

The public consultation on the Government's proposals for a national high speed rail network closed on 29 July 2011 and we are carefully considering all the responses received. I can assure petitioners that any responses they have submitted during the consultation period will be given thorough and detailed consideration.

I fully acknowledge the need to design any high speed line in a way which reduces local environmental and social impacts as far as possible. The Government have been clear that high speed rail must be delivered sustainably; balancing the benefits of high speed rail with the local impacts on landscapes and communities. I believe that through carefully designed mitigation measures the most intrusive local impacts can be eliminated and a solution found which is balanced and fair.

I expect to announce the Government's response to the consultation process and our decision whether to proceed with the proposal by the end of this year.

Swansea Coastguard Station

The Petition of people concerned about maritime safety in the Bristol Channel,

Declares that the recommendation of the UK Government to close the Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Tutts Head, Mumbles, would endanger the lives and wellbeing of people on the water and around the coast of the Bristol Channel.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons press the UK Government to retain the Swansea Maritime Rescue Centre as a 24-hour staffed coastguard station.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Martin Caton, Official Report,* 13 September 2011; Vol. 532, c. 1008.*]*

[P000957]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 4 October 2011:

The future of the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Swansea is a specific question within the wider consultation on the modernisation of the coastguard that I announced on 14 July 2011.

That consultation ended on 6 October 2011. The Government are considering all the responses to that exercise and will make an announcement in due course.

Petition

Wednesday 12 October 2011

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Access by Landlords

The Petition of a resident of Norwich,

Declares that at present there are no laws or guidelines to prevent landlords appearing outside tenants' homes or undertaking disruptive work at any hour; considers that landlords are in effect on tenants' premises when in the communal hallways of properties that have been divided into flats and bedsits; and further declares that this interferes with a tenant's "right to peacefully and privately enjoy", in accordance with the standard contract. The Petition also declares that, although working patterns vary, evenings and weekends should not be interrupted by landlords to enable tenants to enjoy privacy in their homes; noting that, as landlords often collect money for doing nothing, it is doubly unfair not to show respect for those to whom they have a duty of care as well as a business relationship.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to restrict landlords' access to their rented properties in the following ways: (1) other than in the case of an emergency, landlords and their agents should not be inside [or by] tenanted properties before 8am and after 7pm on weekdays; at weekends; or on bank holidays; (2) prospective tenants should only be shown around between 10am and 8pm, tenants would not be expected to comply with requests for viewings of their homes outside these hours; and (3) tenants must be notified of works to be carried out on adjoining properties, particularly in the case of flats in a single property.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Official Report, 11 August 2011; Vol. 531, c. 13P.]*

[P000954]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The law already provides protection for tenants in respect of their right to decide who may enter their home and their right to quiet enjoyment of their property. A tenant has the right to exclude the landlord from the premises that are let to the tenant, unless the landlord is exercising the limited rights to enter reserved to the landlord in the tenancy agreement. Other than when the landlord is exercising those rights, it is for the tenant to determine if and when the landlord may enter the property. The common parts of a building divided into flats are not, however, the tenants' property.

In addition, in every tenancy agreement, there is an implied or contractual covenant of quiet enjoyment. Where work carried out by the landlord interferes with the tenants' use or lawful enjoyment of the property, the tenant may be able to claim for breach of the covenant of quiet enjoyment or for private nuisance. In a successful claim for breach of covenant or private nuisance, the tenant may be entitled to an injunction and/or damages.

The limitations proposed in the petition, including restricting landlords' access before 8am and after 7pm on weekdays and on weekends or bank holidays, may well be impracticable given that many landlords will themselves be working full time in another job. Likewise, tenants who work may also prefer to allow the landlord access outside of normal working hours, when they can be in the property.

The Government believe that the current legislative framework strikes the right balance between the rights of landlords and tenants, and that more restrictive legislation could result in fewer homes available to rent. This would not help either potential tenants or landlords. The Government are, therefore, not seeking to make significant changes to the current framework, although will keep this under continuing consideration.

Petition

Thursday 13 October 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Spring Gardens Care Home (Otley, West Yorkshire)

The Petition of residents of Leeds,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that Leeds City Council should act now to stop the closure of Spring Gardens care home in Otley; notes that the home is the only council run home in the Otley catchment area; also notes that most of the residents are in their 80's and 90's and the closure of the home would severely disrupt their lives;

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Leeds City Council to take the necessary steps to stop the closure of Spring Gardens care home

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Greg Mulholland, Official Report,* 12 September 2011; Vol. 532, c. 860.*]*

[P000956]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issue referred to is for the local council concerned and I am asking Leeds city council to ensure that the views of the petitioners are taken into account when making their decision.

Petition

Monday 17 October 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Lauderdale Avenue Tram Crossing (Blackpool)

The Petition of the people of Blackpool and Cleveleys,

Declares that the Petitioners are opposed to the permanent closure of the Lauderdale Avenue/Blandford Avenue crossing to traffic and pedestrians.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Blackpool Council to ensure that the Lauderdale Avenue/Blandford Avenue crossing remains open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Paul Maynard, Official Report,* 13 September 2011; Vol. 532, c. 1008.*]*

[P000959]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Blackpool tramway is currently being upgraded. The works include provision of new trams and upgrades to many of the junctions with the road network to allow faster tram services. This includes the closure of some existing crossing points for vehicles and pedestrians.

It is for the highway authorities concerned to decide on the detailed design of the scheme. In the case of the Lauderdale Avenue/Blandford Avenue crossing, this is Blackpool council. While every effort should be made to accommodate the needs of all road users, it is sometimes necessary to make changes to facilities as part of a major upgrade.

Local authorities are free to make their own decisions about the design of the streets under their care, provided they take account of the relevant legislation. It would be inappropriate for the Government to seek to intervene in the process of local democratic accountability.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 10 October 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Finance

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what means his Department plans to allocate funding under the Affordable Homes Programme. [72532]

Grant Shapps: I announced the outcome of the Affordable Homes Programme on 14 July. 146 providers will deliver 80,000 new homes for Affordable Rent and Affordable Home Ownership with Government funding of just under £1.8 billion.

Taken with existing commitments, we are investing a total of nearly £4.5 billion between 2011 and 2015. This funding is now expected to provide up to 170,000 new affordable homes by 2015, compared to the 150,000 originally estimated.

The 2011-15 Affordable Homes Programme Framework set out the criteria for assessment by the Homes and Communities Agency, which included meeting local needs and priorities in their proposed locations, offered good value for money, and delivered within the programme timeframe.

Audit Commission

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings the Audit Commission has had with representatives of *(a)* the Labour party and *(b)* Her Majesty's Opposition since May 2010; and on what dates. [72384]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 October 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has not met with representatives of (a) the Labour Party or (b) Her Majesty's Opposition since May 2010.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on photography from Frank Noon in the last three years; and *(a)* on what dates and *(b)* for what functions Frank Noon was commissioned to take photographs during that period. [72385]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated October 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has spent a total of £1,811.80 on photography with Frank Noon in the last three years. The dates, functions and individual costs are shown below:

	Function	*Total (£)*
21 April 2008	The Reform Club, London—event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Audit Commission. Attended by senior stakeholders, including Lord Heseltine, and long-serving members of staff. Photographs taken for internal communication purposes.	255.80
23 July 2008	Lancaster House, London—Audit Commission's Annual Lecture given by Lord Heseltine. Photographs taken for Annual Lecture transcript document and for internal communication purposes.	205.80
30 April 2009	British Library, London—Appointed Auditors conference, presentation of two annual awards. Photographs for award winners and internal communication purposes.	200.80
4 November 2009	One Great George Street, London—Alumni event. Photographs taken for internal communication purposes and alumni newsletter.	230.80
10 November 2009	Savoy Place, London—Seminar for past and present senior staff to discuss issues affecting the public sector. Photographs taken for internal communication purposes and alumni newsletter.	230.80
7 December 2009	St Martins in the Field, London—press launch for the: Oneplace website. Photographs taken for internal communication purposes.	250.00
10 March 2010	Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury—Discussion event to improve arrangements for staff working part-time or flexible hours. Photographs taken for internal communication purposes.	232.20
21 April 2010	The Welcome Collection, London—Appointed Auditors conference. Photographs for award winners and internal communication purposes.	205.60

The Commission no longer uses external photographers for internal publications and has ceased alumni events and production of its alumni newsletter.

Audit Commission: Government Procurement Card

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of the Audit Commission were disciplined for misuse or abuse of the Government Procurement Card between 2005-06 and 2009-10. [72422]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 October 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

I can confirm that there were no instances of misuse or abuse of the Government Procurement Card by staff of the Audit Commission that warranted disciplinary action during the period in question.

Business: Civil Disorder

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the funds provided by his Department in respect of the High Street Support Scheme are allocated from existing budgets; and if he will make a statement. [71789]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government contribution to the High Street Support Scheme will be funded from unallocated provisions within the Department's budgets; this is therefore additional local government funding from schemes that had been announced to date.

Community Relations: Religion

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how he plans to consult with faith communities in the future; and if he will reconsider his decision to abolish the Faith Communities Consultative Council. [72307]

Andrew Stunell: The Government remain wholly committed to consulting faith communities on the development and implementation of policies that affect them, in the most effective way possible.

My ministerial colleagues and I will continue to host tailored meetings with faith communities for detailed discussions on specific policies. On occasion there will also be the need to have collective round-table meetings to draw on the perspectives of faith communities on overarching areas of policy. These should take place as and when necessary.

My Department will continue to lead the process of engagement with all faith communities.

The Government recognise the vital contribution that faith communities make to civil society, and we are committed to facilitating linkages and tackling barriers that faith groups face. For instance my Department has invested £5 million in the Church Urban Fund's Near Neighbours programme, using the local infrastructure of the Church of England to build productive relationships between people from different faith backgrounds in four key geographical areas.

Council Housing: Fire Prevention

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from local authorities in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Sheffield, *(d)* Leeds, *(e)* Bristol, *(f)* Exeter and *(g)* Southampton on fire safety assessments on local authority-owned residential property. [72278]

Robert Neill: We have received no representations from these local authorities in respect of fire safety in local authority-owned residential property.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of people on the housing waiting list in each local authority were *(a)* married couples with children, *(b)* civil partners with children, *(c)* unmarried couples with children, *(d)* lone parents, *(e)* married couples without children, *(f)* civil partners without children, *(g)* unmarried couples without children and *(h)* single people without children in the latest period for which figures are available. [72761]

Grant Shapps: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Delegation of Powers

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration his Department is giving to further delegation of powers to city regions. [70529]

Greg Clark: The Government are supporting a cross-party amendment to the Localism Bill, proposed by the Core Cities Group, which will support greater devolution to help drive economic prosperity and growth across England. This amendment will provide an enabling power to allow for the transfer of public functions and delegation of ministerial functions to cities and other localities to increase their economic competitiveness. Any transfer of powers to particular places would be for the decision of the relevant Secretary of State and subject to discussion and agreement with individual cities and affirmative resolutions in both houses of Parliament.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72683]

Robert Neill: Redfern Travel Ltd is the Department's travel management company for both rail and airline tickets.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on alcohol for the consumption of Ministers in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and from which suppliers. [72425]

Robert Neill: Information relating to the purchase of alcohol for ministerial consumption is not held separately on the Department's financial systems and it would be impossible to disaggregate this from records held about spend on total hospitality refreshments. Nor is it possible to separately identify spend on alcohol from Government Procurement Card records.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72451]

Robert Neill: Admin budgets for the Office of the chief scientific adviser were as follows:

	£
2006-07	66,000
2007-08	38,000
2008-09	227,000
2009-10	229,000
2010-11	188,000

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72452]

Robert Neill: The salary of the Department for Communities and Local Government's chief scientific adviser is publicly available on the DCLG website for the periods ending 31 March 2011 and 30 June 2010. Information is being provided only for these dates as it is already available in the public domain.

On both of these dates, the salary was between £60,000 and £64,999. The individual in question works part time and salary is pro-rated accordingly. The full time equivalent salary of the individual is between £125,000 and £129,999.

In the last five years, two individuals have held the post of chief scientific adviser for the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72453]

Robert Neill: Not including the chief scientific adviser himself, staff numbers are as follows:

	Number
2006-07	1
2007-08	1.08
2008-09	1.67
2009-10	2
2010-11	2

The office has been in existence throughout the life of the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72454]

Robert Neill: My Department is committed to handling science and engineering advice in accordance with the Government chief scientific adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making". The Building Regulations Advisory Committee is a non-departmental public body, and it operates in line with the "Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees" and the "Principles for Scientific Advice to Government".

Terms and conditions applying to contractors' request that the contractor's personnel shall be appropriately experienced, qualified, trained and security cleared and shall undertake the services with reasonable skill, care and diligence in accordance with the contract and good industry practice and to the reasonable satisfaction of the Department.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68958]

Robert Neill: One senior civil servant, at Director Level, who started on 1 December 2008 worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers immediately prior to joining the Department.

Appointments to the Department are made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition in accordance with the Constitutional Reform Act 2010, and conflicts of interest would be explored as part of the recruitment process.

Departmental records show the following contracts with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte and KPMG (no such contracts have been awarded to Ernst & Young) in the last four years:

Name	*Contract title*	*Contract start date*	*Contract end date*
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Business and Town Centre Partnerships project	1 April 2006	31 April 2008
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Support to Internal Audit Function	27 November 2007	31 December 2010
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Eco Towns Delivery Study	14 May 2008	31 October 2008
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Homeowners Mortgage Scheme Financial Support	16 January 2009	27 February 2009
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Eco Town Delivery Study—Phase 2	1 September 2008	27 March 2009
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Consultancy support to Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme	24 March 2009	30 June 2009
PricewaterhouseCoopers	A study to identify the Thames Gateway Top 20 Schemes	12 June 2009	28 July 2009
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Modelling business plans for council landlords	26 January 2010	26 February 2010
PricewaterhouseCoopers	A cost evaluation of the local area performance framework	2 September 2009	30 July 2010

Name	*Contract title*	*Contract start date*	*Contract end date*
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Consultancy support to the project team managing the closure of the European Regional Development Fund	15 January 2010	31 March 2010
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Infrastructure Planning Commission ICT Consultancy	15 June 2009	31 July 2009
Deloitte	Development Study on the QE2 Conference Centre—Stage 1	1 July 2009	30 September 2012
Deloitte	DCLG Regional and Group Estates Strategies	15 October 2009	30 November 2009
Deloitte	Acquiring commercial intelligence on the Thames Gateway	7 July 2009	1 June 2010
Deloitte	Finance Process Improvement Support Consultancy	12 August 2008	30 September 2008
Deloitte	Business case for ERP Enabled Business Transformation	22 March 2010	14 May 2010
KPMG	Review of IT outsourcing project business case	2 March 2009	15 April 2009
KPMG	Sustainable communities events	7 July 2006	30 April 2008

The Department does not hold details of the number of consultants who may have advised the Department in the course of these contracts.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible use to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69274]

Robert Neill: On 15 November 2010, the Chief Secretary said in response to PQ 16752, *Official Report*, columns 615-16W, that the Government had announced a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector, including:

> a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;
>
> radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across Government; and
>
> the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management;

and that, in result, Departments would no longer be required to report against the previous Government's failed efficiency target.

In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office announced that the Efficiency and Reform Group's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010-11.

This impact was assessed using methodologies outlined in the following table. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented.

These savings are borne out in Department accounts. Note 9 'other administrative Costs' of the Department's Report and Accounts 2010-11 (page 129) reports that non-pay gross admin costs for the Department reduced from £104 million in 2009-10 to £123 million in 2010-11, once early retirement costs of £64 million were taken into account. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

In particular the Department has made significant operational savings, by reducing demand and renegotiating commercial terms, of £1.8 million in IT contracts and £2.4 million in temporary staffing and interim labour costs.

The Department has achieved estimated net property running costs reductions of £9.8 million per annum since the start of the spending review period which includes £1.9 million in Estates requirements in the last financial year. In addition the Department has reduced its Research expenditure by 36% (£10.8 million) in 2010-11.

Activity and Calculation Method: An illustrative table of the cross-departmental approach

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Consulting	Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for Department Ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009-10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other professional services categories, including contingent labour.
Crown Commercial	Government have renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to Government.	The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent. This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in Memoranda of Understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports.

Activity and Calculation Method: An illustrative table of the cross-departmental approach

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Contingent Labour	Government have significantly cut the number of temporary staff.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009-10.
Communications	Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed, ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above.	Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010-11 with that for 2009-10.
Centralising Procurement	Government have started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation.	For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against a 2009-10 price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers.
ICT	We implemented a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million and a review of all on-going ICT commitments. Departments also reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review.	Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010-11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy.
Major Projects	We reviewed the Government's biggest projects to see where 2010-11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. We have halted or curtailed spend on four projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million; Identity Cards—£50 million; Highways Agency projects—£54 million; Whole Farm—£5 million. We have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm.	HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the major projects related negotiations.
Property	We put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, we have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals.	Calculations are property by property based on the amount departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry.

Enterprise Zones

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the unsuccessful bids were for the most recent round of enterprise zones; and for what reasons each such bid was unsuccessful. [70161]

Greg Clark: The competition generated a significant amount of interest and the Government received a number of very strong bids. The successful bids were better able to demonstrate how they matched the three criteria of sustainable economic growth, implementation and value for money.

The unsuccessful bids for enterprise zones came from the following local enterprise partnerships:

Greater Birmingham and Solihull;
Coventry and Warwickshire;
Cheshire and Warrington;
Cumbria;
Hertfordshire;
Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Derbyshire;
Greater Lincolnshire;
Coast to Capital;
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire;
Worcestershire;
York and North Yorkshire;
Enterprise M3;
Heart of the South West;
Lancashire;
Gloucestershire.

In addition, the London local enterprise partnership submitted two bids for enterprise zones—one in Croydon and the other in Tottenham. Following subsequent conversations, a separate, unringfenced London Enterprise Fund has been set up which supersedes these proposals.

Many of the unsuccessful bids contained strong economic ambitions, and Ministers are encouraged that several partnerships are exploring other ways to take forward their proposals. Officials have given feedback to unsuccessful bidders and will continue to work with them—on an individual basis where necessary—to support them in their ambitions for growth.

A copy of the announcement naming the successful bids has been placed in the Library of the House:

www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1967595

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria were used to select the first 11 local enterprise zones. [71201]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* Seven of the 11 local enterprise partnerships were selected on the basis that they encompass one or more of England's largest cities, ranked by population. The remaining four local enterprise partnerships were selected on the basis of need, using the published location criteria used to assess bids to the regional growth fund.

EU Grants and Loans

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press notice of 1 August 2011, on European Regional Development Funding, which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* accounting officers were responsible for oversight of the 2000 to 2006 programme from 2000 to May 2010. [72391]

Robert Neill: The Secretaries of State with responsibility for the European Regional Development Fund 2000-2006 Programme for the period 2000 to May 2010 were:

Department	*Secretary of State*	*Dates*
DETR	Lord Prescott	May 1997 to June 2001
DTLR	Rt. Hon Stephen Byers	June 2001 to May 2002
ODPM	Lord Prescott	May 2002 to May 2006
DCLG	Rt. Hon Ruth Kelly	May 2006 to June 2007
DCLG	Rt. Hon Hazel Blears	June 2007 to June 2009
DCLG	Rt. Hon John Denham	June 2009 to May 2010
DCLG	Rt. Hon Eric Pickles	May 2010—

The Permanent Secretaries with responsibility as accounting officers for the European Regional Development Fund 2000-2006 Programme for the period 2000 to May 2010 were:

Department	*Permanent Secretaries*	*Dates*
DETR	Sir Richard Mottram	1998 to 2001
DTLR	Sir Richard Mottram	2001 to May 2002
ODPM	Dame Mavis McDonald DCB	May 2002 to September 2005
ODPM	Sir Peter Housden KCB	September 2005 to May 2006
DCLG	Sir Peter Housden KCB	May 2006 to June 2010

Fire Services: Manpower

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential impact of changes in the fire service on emergency plans for *(a)* Aldermaston and *(b)* other weapons facilities. [68923]

Robert Neill: The Ministry of Defence is responsible for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place for their weapons establishments. The chief fire and rescue adviser liaises closely with the Ministry of Defence's fire and rescue service on a regular basis, and on a range of issues.

Following the fire at Aldermaston AWE which took place on 3 August 2010, the Ministry of Defence's fire and rescue service investigated the operational response to the incident and produced a report. This identified areas where improvements could be made, including arrangements with the Royal Berkshire fire and rescue service. This investigation has been completed and I understand the findings have been acted upon by the respective authorities.

Fire Services: Staffordshire

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from the chair of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire fire and rescue authority regarding business continuity in the event of a dispute; and if he will make a statement. [72100]

Robert Neill: The chair of stoke-on-trent and Staffordshire fire and rescue authority, Councillor Leonard Bloomer, wrote to the Prime Minister on the 20 July, highlighting the difficulties his authority faced in maintaining business continuity, should there be a national dispute in the fire and rescue service. I replied to Councillor Bloomer, on behalf of the Prime Minister, in my capacity as Fire Minister on the 12 August.

I indicated in my response that any form of national dispute in the fire and rescue service poses challenges to individual fire and rescue services. However, fire and rescue services do have a statutory duty to plan for such an event, and it is important that detailed planning starts as early as possible. A body of notable practice exists both within and outside the fire and rescue service which fire and rescue authorities should be using to develop their plans.

Government Procurement Card

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of his Department and its predecessor were disciplined for misuse or abuse of the Government Procurement Card between 2005-06 and 2009-10. [72421]

Robert Neill: No staff in the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor were disciplined for misuse or abuse of the Government Procurement Card between 2005-06 and 2009-10.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Dover of 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 892W, on the Government Procurement Card, what the name is of each Government Procurement Card holder authorising each of the transactions listed in the answer who was a member of the senior civil service or a ministerial private office. [72424]

Robert Neill: A column has been added to the original table identifying those card holders who were members of the senior civil service and where the card holders were based in a ministerial private office. As private office card holders were not members of the senior civil service their names have not been released.

This amended table has been deposited in the Library of the House.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

High-rise Flats: Fire Prevention

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that residential tower blocks meet fire safety standards. [72277]

Robert Neill: Ensuring appropriate standards of fire safety are in place in residential tower blocks is the responsibility of the landlord or building owner who must comply with the provisions in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the Housing Act 2004. Fire and rescue authorities and environmental health officers have enforcement responsibilities in these premises and are encouraged to work together to ensure safety standards are being met.

To support landlords and others to effectively put in place and manage appropriate fire safety arrangements, my Department provided funding to the Local Government Group to develop new fire safety guidance specifically for those with fire safety responsibilities in purpose built flats, including tower blocks.

This guidance, developed in partnership with the housing and fire sector, was published on 29 July and is available on the Local Government Group and Department for Communities and Local Government website.

www.communities.gov.uk/firesafety

Homelessness

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from non-governmental organisations on the effects of his Department's policies on the level of homelessness. [72236]

Grant Shapps: This Department has received representations on homelessness from a range of voluntary organisations. Ministers from this Department regularly meet with key partners in the voluntary sector to discuss homelessness issues.

I have also established the first ever cross-departmental ministerial working group bringing eight Departments together on homelessness to ensure better joined-up working on this important issue.

Housing

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the level of family breakdown of *(a)* house and rental prices and *(b)* housing supply. [72759]

Grant Shapps: The Department has made no assessment of such effects of house and rental prices and housing supply. However, the wider social effects specifically of mortgage repossession were identified in a Department Research Report, "Evaluation of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme and Homeowners Mortgage Support" published in July 2010.

Housing: Local Government Finance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he plans to announce the funding allocations arising from the Housing Market Renewal Transition Fund. [71888]

Grant Shapps: I expect to announce the outcome shortly.

Housing: Planning

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the possible use by the Planning Inspectorate of unmet five-year rolling housing delivery targets as a factor in decisions on appeal for housing developments on land outside the approved local development framework. [70057]

Robert Neill: The current policy of the Secretary of State is set out in paragraph 71 of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3, which advises local planning authorities to maintain an up-to-date five-year housing land supply. Where they have not achieved this objective, planning decision-makers are asked to consider planning applications for housing favourably, having regard to general policy safeguards set out in the PPS. Where there is an appeal, Planning Inspectors must consider this policy.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), is currently consulting on a proposal to simplify and replace all planning policy statements with a single National Planning Policy Framework. The draft framework may change before it is approved. However, if it was approved as currently drafted, local planning authorities would be set an objective to increase the supply of housing. The draft policy suggests that authorities will identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years worth of housing against their housing requirements. Their five-year land supply should include:

> "an additional allowance of at least 20 per cent to ensure choice and competition in the market for land."

If this advice were not to be taken and a planning appeal were to follow, Planning Inspectors would consider the presumption in favour of sustainable development that is also set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. This would indicate that planning permission should be granted at appeal to meet the housing objectives of the framework, unless the adverse impacts of allowing the development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh its benefits, when assessed against the policies in the framework taken as a whole.

Housing: Planning Permission

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of new homes for which planning permission has been granted but construction has not yet commenced in the last three years. [71629]

Robert Neill: In England at 31 July 2011 there were 250,000 dwellings with detailed planning permission on sites where construction had not yet commenced, according to estimates by the Homes and Communities Agency. These outstanding planning permissions amount to just over one year's projected average annual household growth (232,000 household per annum until 2033).

Interreg IVA France (Channel) England Programme

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* monetary value, *(b)* recipient and *(c)* purpose was of each grant made under the Interreg IVA France (Channel) England programme since the scheme's inception. [68887]

Robert Neill: The information requested has been drawn from the website set up by the programme's managing authority (Région Haute-Normandie) and is set out in a table which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Ministers are of the view that a number of these programmes, inherited from the last Administration, do not represent good value for money for the taxpayer. I am also placing in the Library of the House a copy of a letter from the Secretary of State to the European Commission on this issue.

Local Development Frameworks

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to put in place a fast-track procedure to approve existing local development frameworks to bring them up to date with the national planning policy framework. [71886]

Greg Clark: The last Government's Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 added significant complexity and delay to the planning system. As highlighted on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 497WA, by the beginning of 2010—six years after the Act—only 61 core strategies had been adopted.

In this context, we are currently considering what steps central Government can take to help local authorities speed up the system.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by his Department. [71892]

Greg Clark: A wide range of officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government and other Government Departments were involved to varying degrees in the development of the draft national planning policy framework.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the practitioners' advisory group. [71897]

Greg Clark: The suggested draft of the practitioners' advisory group was the conclusions of the members of the group, rather than of the Government. A small number of officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government provided administrative support to the group and officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government and other Government Departments met with the practitioners during the course of their work.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what *(a)* financial assistance and *(b)* other support his Department plans to provide to local authorities which do not have a local development framework in place to introduce one; [71898]

(2) what *(a)* financial assistance and *(b)* other support his Department plans to provide to local authorities to update their local development frameworks; [71899]

(3) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of local authority resources to produce or update local development frameworks. [71900]

Greg Clark: Councils' statutory planning functions are financed through formula grant. As with all local government functions and services, there is significant potential for councils to make savings and do more for less through better procurement and joint working.

A number of our reforms are reducing planning burdens on local authorities—such as through reducing the need for unnecessary planning applications and the abolition of regional planning.

My Department has also provided £3 million of funding in 2011-12 to the Planning Advisory Service to provide consultancy and peer support, learning events and online resources to assist councils on planning reform.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal advice his Department has sought on whether *(a)* adopted and *(b)* post-examination local development frameworks will be technically out of date once the national planning policy framework is adopted. [71920]

Greg Clark: In line with the practice of previous Administrations, the Government do not disclose their legal advice.

Notwithstanding that, it is a common occurrence—under this and previous Administrations—for central Government to make amendments or updates to national planning guidance.

In such circumstances, it is a matter for the local planning authority to assess the weight and relevance to be given to the new policies when making decisions on individual planning applications.

Local Government Finance: Greater London

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation from the Greater London Authority on the *(a)* Balance of Funding Review and *(b)* Lyons Inquiry into local government finance. [72383]

Robert Neill: Copies of the Greater London Authority's responses to the Lyons Inquiry and the Balance of Funding Review have been placed in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Billing

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to encourage local authorities to pay their creditors in a timely fashion. [71416]

Robert Neill: The arrangements for payment of their creditors are a matter for individual local authorities.

To challenge the culture of late payment that persists across the UK economy, the Government have worked with the UK's leading business and finance organisations to develop a strategy for challenging the long-standing culture of late payment. One element of this strategy is to establish the public sector as a payment exemplar. Across the public sector the standard payment target is 30 days and we have further extended this target to tier one suppliers to ensure the benefits of prompt payment are felt through the supply chain.

Government Departments have been set a target of paying 80% of supplier invoices within five working days. DCLG paid 82.32% of invoices for the period April to September 2011 within five working days. The Department has agreed to bring forward payments to all businesses, given the role of larger businesses in the supply chain.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any formal complaints from officials in his Department have been received in respect of the conduct of his special advisers since May 2010. [71868]

Robert Neill: No complaints have been received from officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of the conduct of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's special advisers since May 2010.

Non-domestic Rates

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the potential effect of proposals for the future of the national non-domestic rating pool on Sunderland city council in the next three financial years; [67105]

(2) if he will take steps to mitigate any loss of net income to Sunderland city council arising from proposed changes to the national non-domestic rating pool; [67485]

(3) if he will estimate the funds required to replace any annual loss of net income to local authorities arising from proposed changes to the national non-domestic rating pool in the next three financial years. [67486]

Robert Neill: As the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) told the House in his oral statement on 18 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 662-64, our proposals ensure a fair starting point, so that no local authority is worse off at the outset of the scheme as a result of their business rates base.

The suggestion made by the hon. Member in her local media that Sunderland city council "will lose up to £58 million a year" has no basis in fact and is simply wrong.

Our proposals include protections for councils across the country, including a safety net for places in need of additional support.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority collected in national non-domestic rates in each of the last 10 years. [69157]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table giving details of the amount of national non-domestic rates collected by each local authority in England, from 2001-02 to 2010-11.

The figures shown in the table are the amount of national non-domestic rates collected by each local authority in England after reliefs and before allowances for collection costs.

The data are taken from national non-domestic rates (NNDR3) out-turn returns submitted annually by all billing authorities in England.

I would note that the Government's proposals for the local retention of business rates will include a range of protections to ensure councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy recovering a share of disproportionate gain. The new regime will also introduce incentives for councils to promote local economic growth, thereby creating the potential to increase aggregate revenues from business rates compared with the current regime.

Non-domestic Rates: Yorkshire and the Humber

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of business rate localisation on economic growth in Yorkshire and the Humber. [72404]

Robert Neill: Our proposed reforms will provide new incentives for councils to promote local economic growth, encouraging them to work closely with local businesses and create the right conditions for local firms to expand and prosper.

National Planning Policy

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 51 of the draft national planning policy framework, what legal advice his Department has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the precedence of the neighbourhood plan over existing policies in a local development plan. [71859]

Greg Clark: Under section 38(6) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Once a neighbourhood plan is brought into force its policies will form part of the development plan for the local area.

The Localism Bill requires all neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan that applies to the neighbourhood area.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraphs 62 and 63 of the draft national planning policy framework, what legal advice his Department has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on how development management works in law. [71860]

Greg Clark: Paragraph 62 of the draft National Planning Policy Framework confirms the existing position on the role of the development plan in the determination of planning applications. It fully reflects section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planned timetable is for implementation of the national planning policy framework. [71861]

Greg Clark: The Department's structural reform plan includes a commitment to produce the final national planning policy framework by April 2012.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 28 of the draft national planning policy framework, where the inputs of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment will be defined. [71863]

Greg Clark: Current guidance on the preparation of Strategic Housing Market Assessments can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningand building/strategichousingmarket

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to paragraph 109 of the draft national planning policy framework, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document containing the evidence base for the added 20 per cent. housing target for choice and competition; [71864]

(2) with reference to paragraph 109 of the draft national planning policy framework, what assessment his Department has made of how the 20 per cent. housing target for choice and competition will work in areas of constraint or low demand. [71867]

Greg Clark: The evidence base for policies in the draft national planning policy framework is set out in the consultation stage impact assessment which was published on 25 July 2011 and placed in the Library of the House.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to assist local authorities in preparing for the implementation of the national planning policy framework. [71902]

Greg Clark: The draft framework is currently out for consultation. As part of the public consultation process, we are holding a series of events across England offering opportunities for councils, community groups, the development industry and local people to express their views directly to us. For example, we arranged, with the Planning Officers' Society, a specific event to bring together planners from across England to discuss the draft framework on 26 September 2011.

The draft framework includes a draft policy that states it will be open to councils to seek a "certificate of conformity" with national policy to assist councils in identifying which of their existing local policies may be consistent with the national planning policy framework and which may not be, and will consider any representations made on this point in the current consultation. We are currently considering how this procedure can be offered free to councils.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Planning Inspectorate has issued to local planning authorities on what consideration should be given to the draft national planning policy framework in planning decisions; and if he will make a statement. [71941]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* My Department's chief planner wrote to all local authority chief planning officers announcing the publication of the draft national planning policy framework. This letter can be seen on the Planning Portal and the DCLG website.

The Planning Inspectorate has also issued advice to inspectors on the consultation document and this can be seen on the Planning Portal and the Planning Inspectorate website.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications have been *(a)* submitted, *(b)* approved and *(c)* rejected in each local authority area in each of the last four quarters. [71942]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* The number of applications received, decided, approved and refused for each local planning authority in England for the quarters April to June 2010, July to September 2010, October to December 2010 and January to March 2011 are shown in a table that has been placed in the Library of the House.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with which organisations his Department has had meetings to discuss the national planning policy framework since May 2010. [72072]

Greg Clark: Officials routinely meet with a wide range of organisations to discuss planning matters. Ministerial meetings with external organisations are published on my Department's website.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with which organisations he has had meetings to discuss the national planning policy framework since April 2011; [72073]

(2) with which organisations the Minister of State for Housing and Local Government has had meetings to discuss the national planning policy framework since April 2011; [72074]

(3) with which organisations the Minister of State for Decentralisation has had meetings to discuss the national planning policy framework since April 2011. [72075]

Greg Clark: My Department routinely publishes details of ministerial meetings on the departmental website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/ministerialdata

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of implementation of the national planning policy framework on the level of judicial reviews in respect of planning applications; and what assessment he has made of the risk of a judicial review in respect of the process for introducing the national planning policy framework; [72291]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of his national planning policy framework on the *(a)* legal profession and *(b)* courts system. [71901]

Greg Clark: The impact assessment accompanying the draft national planning policy framework contains an assessment of the potential effects of the draft national planning policy framework on the justice system. The process of reducing and simplifying planning policy will lead to a reduction in the number of planning decisions that are referred to the courts. This is because there will be less complexity, less contradiction and a clearer statement of Government policy, as a result of streamlining planning policy (Part A) and of the greater likelihood of having local plans.

National Planning Policy: Appeals

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of the national planning policy framework on planning appeals. [71858]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the published impact assessment, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the assessment of the potential impact on appeals of the national planning policy framework made by the planning inspectorate on the day his Department receives the assessment. [71862]

Greg Clark: Information about the expected impact on appeal cases is contained in the consultation stage impact assessment. A final impact assessment will be published alongside the final national planning policy framework, and a copy will be provided to the House.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications in each development category have been referred to the Secretary of State in each of the last five years; and how many such applications so referred have been called in for determination in each of those years. [71883]

Robert Neill: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Referral type	*Numbers referred*	*Numbers called in*
2006	Departure	620	17
	Flooding	2	0
	Green Belt	59	1
	Shopping	94	5
	Playing Field	20	0
	Housing Density	2	0
	Greenfield Housing	34	0
2007	Departure	597	14
	Flooding	20	4
	Green Belt	68	2
	Shopping	99	2

	Referral type	*Numbers referred*	*Numbers called in*
	Playing Field	16	0
2008	Departure	574	10
	Flooding	20	4
	Green Belt	81	4
	Shopping	99	10
	Playing Field	11	0
	2009 flooding	0	0
	2009 Greenbelt	0	0
	2009 outside Town Centre	1	0
	2009 playing field	1	0
	2009 World Heritage Site	0	0
2009	Departure	221	1
	Flooding	5	2
	Green Belt	39	1
	Shopping	37	4
	Playing Field	13	0
	2009 flooding	3	1
	2009 Greenbelt	72	0
	2009 outside Town Centre	45	0
	2009 playing field	21	0
	2009 World Heritage Site	0	0
2010	Departure	18	0
	Flooding	0	0
	Green Belt	0	0
	Shopping	0	0
	Playing Field	0	0
	2009 flooding	4	1
	2009 Greenbelt	157	4
	2009 outside Town Centre	93	0
	2009 playing field	50	0
	2009 World Heritage Site	3	0
2011[1]	Departure	2	0
	Flooding	0	0
	Green Belt	2	0
	Shopping	0	0
	Playing Field	0	0
	2009 flooding	0	0
	2009 Greenbelt	54	0
	2009 outside Town Centre	46	0
	2009 playing field	20	0
	2009 World Heritage Site	0	0

[1] To 31 August.

Notes:

1. The criteria for referral of application to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government have changed over the five year period.
2. As of 1 April 2007 the Greenfield and Housing Density direction was cancelled. Also on 20 April 2009 the Consultation Directions 2009 superseded the remaining referral directions with departure from the local plan no longer included as a reason for referral and development on a World Heritage Site introduced as a reason for referral.

Data Source:

DCLG Planet Database

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the Planning Inspectorate's assessment of the potential effects on the level of planning appeals of implementation of the national planning policy framework. [72292]

Robert Neill: I once again refer the hon. Member to the published impact assessment a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Planning Permission: Offices

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the removal of office development from the town centre first policy on sustainable transport on *(a)* the removal of car parking standards and *(b)* other sustainable transport matters. [71871]

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what impact assessment he has made of the effects on the sustainability of high streets of the removal of office development from the Town Centre First policy. [71877]

Robert Neill: A consultation stage impact assessment was published alongside the draft national planning policy framework on 25 July 2011. This includes consideration of the expected impact of changes in current planning policy.

Planning Permission: Rural Areas

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many out-of-town planning applications referred to him have been called in since May 2010. [71874]

Robert Neill: No out-of-town applications have been called in by the Secretary of State between 1 May 2010 and 31 August 2011.

Planning: Appeals

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals in each category the Planning Inspectorate considered in each of the last five years; and how many and what proportion of such appeals in each category were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* dismissed. [71884]

Robert Neill: The following tables show the numbers of planning appeals in each procedure category considered by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last five years. The tables also show the percentage that were upheld and dismissed. Please note that from 6 April 2009 a new procedure category, Householder Appeal Service, was introduced and is a sub-category of Written Representations.

Written Representations[1]

	Decided	*Upheld*	*Percentage upheld*	*Percentage dismissed*
2006-07	16,705	5,557	33	67
2007-08	16,875	5,732	34	66
2008-09	16,854	5,332	32	68
2009-10	12,418	3,695	30	70
	[1](2,218)	[1](714)	[1](32)	[1](68)
2010-11	9,396	2,827	30	70
	[1](4,959)	[1](1,741)	[1](35)	[1](65)

[1] Householder Appeal Service shown in brackets.

Hearings

	Decided	*Upheld*	*Percentage upheld*	*Percentage dismissed*
2006-07	3,216	1,169	36	64
2007-08	2,252	873	39	61
2008-09	3,332	1,312	39	61
2009-10	2,174	847	39	61
2010-11	1,160	461	40	60

Inquiries

	Decided	*Upheld*	*Percentage upheld*	*Percentage dismissed*
2006-07	937	439	47	53
2007-08	889	478	54	46
2008-09	901	432	48	52
2009-10	561	297	53	47
2010-11	337	165	49	51

Regional Planning and Development

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish for consultation his Department's environmental assessment of the revocation of regional strategies; and if he will publish the environmental report for each region separately. [72387]

Robert Neill: I announced in a written ministerial statement on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 52WS, that the Government are undertaking a voluntary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of revoking all eight regional strategies which will be published as eight separate reports. I will announce the start of public consultation on the assessments shortly.

Planning Permission: Sports

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the likelihood of sport and recreation facilities being closed as a result of the implementation of changes to the planning system; [72644]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the long-term future of sport and recreation facilities of the draft national planning policy framework. [72650]

Greg Clark: The coalition agreement included a commitment to help support important community facilities and services. In line with this, the draft national planning policy framework seeks to increase planning protection for community facilities.

The new guidance proposes to strengthen current policy by asking local councils to consider the availability and viability of community facilities as part of the plan making process and to develop policies to safeguard against their unnecessary loss.

The Government's objective is to create strong, vibrant and healthy communities. To help achieve this, the draft framework is clear that the planning system should ensure access to open spaces and recreational facilities that promote the health and well-being of the community. The Government are also introducing a new designation to protect valued local green spaces, which has the potential to provide additional planning protection to playing fields and other open green spaces.

These measures will also be supported by the community right to buy in the Localism Bill which will provide additional protection for community assets.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will meet the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to discuss the arrangements in the planning system to protect sports and recreation facilities; [72645]

(2) if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport the potential effect on sport and recreation facilities of the draft national planning policy framework. [72649]

Greg Clark: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government already regularly meet colleagues from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with representatives of the sport and recreation sector on the draft national planning policy framework. [72646]

Greg Clark: Ministers and officials have been meeting with a wide range of organisations as part of our consultation on the draft national planning policy framework, including organisations with a particular interest in sports and recreation.

Standards Board for England

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Standards Board for England has used a corporate credit card or charge card in the last three years; and what records are held of transactions on any such card. [72382]

Robert Neill: The Standards Board for England has a corporate credit card which is used to pay for goods and services which cannot be paid for by BACS transfer or cheque. Detailed records of transactions are held by the Standards Board.

Sustainable Communities

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* cost of implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [71737]

Greg Clark: The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 Act was amended in April 2010 in response to feedback from stakeholders and to allow procedures for receiving, considering and deciding proposals under the Act to be improved. The Department has consulted on detailed arrangements for implementing the Sustainable Communities Act and submissions were received from 26 interested parties. The Government are currently considering their response.

Sustainable Development

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definitions of sustainable development are used by his Department. [71945]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* The classic definition of sustainable development, set out by the Brundtland Commission, is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is reflected in the Government's vision for sustainable development published in February 2011 and by this Department in its work including the consultation draft of the national planning policy framework.

Travel: Concessions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the costs of administering the concessionary travel scheme by local authorities since its introduction. [72185]

Robert Neill: The national implementation of the concessionary travel scheme occurred in 2008. The following table shows net expenditure on the scheme for each of the financial years from 2008-09 to 2011-12. This expenditure includes administration costs but predominantly consists of reimbursements to bus operators. The costs of administering the scheme are not separately identified in centrally held data.

	Net cost[1] (£ million)
2008-09 (Outturn)	990
2009-10 (Outturn)	1,000
2010-11 (Budget)	1,111
2011-12 (Budget)	1,158

[1] Net cost is equal to the sum of employee costs and running expenses (e.g. premises and transport-related expenditure, supplies and services, third-party payments etc.) and offset by income from sales, fees and charges (e.g. charge for replacement or reissuing of lost travel passes) and other sources of income (e.g. income from issuing or renewal of subsidised rail cards offered to the over 65 and disabled people).

Travellers: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to prevent the illegal occupation of land by Travellers in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [68502]

Robert Neill: The police and local authorities have powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to direct trespassers from land. We are removing the top-down targets for Traveller site provision by local authorities which fuelled opposition to the development of Traveller sites. Local authorities will be responsible for determining the right level of Traveller site provision in their area to meet local need and historic demand. We will encourage councils to provide sites with incentives through the New Homes Bonus scheme and we have secured £60 million grant funding to help councils and other registered providers deliver new Traveller sites.

We are increasing enforcement powers available to councils to tackle unauthorised development more effectively, including stopping the abuse of retrospective planning permission.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures relating to tackling the UK's outsourced emissions will be included in his Department's updated Carbon Plan. [72380]

Gregory Barker: The Department's updated Carbon Plan will focus on territorial emissions (including the effect of the EU Emissions Trading System), in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reporting framework and our reporting requirements under the Climate Change Act 2008.

We recognise the importance of tackling outsourced emissions if we are successfully to deliver our climate change objectives. We are therefore working hard to secure an international agreement with commitments from all key countries to reduce emissions, which is the most direct way to reduce all emissions, including those related to consumption.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72687]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) currently uses the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' contract with Carlson Wagonlit Travel for booking air travel.

Some airlines flying direct from the UK to certain overseas destinations accept only direct bookings. In these cases where a direct flight cannot be booked through the travel management companies DECC staff may book direct with the airline.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72701]

Gregory Barker: DECC currently uses the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' contracts for hotel and travel bookings. Contracts are in place with the following companies:

Redfern Travel—domestic rail travel;

Expotel—domestic hotel stays; and

Carlson Wagonlit Travel—air travel, overseas rail travel and overseas hotel stays.

From 1 December 2011 DECC will move to the pan-Government contracts that are being put in place.

Staff are expected to make all bookings through the contracted suppliers where feasible. Some airlines flying direct from the UK to certain overseas destinations accept only direct bookings. In these cases where a direct flight cannot be booked through the travel management companies DECC may book direct with the airline.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72463]

Gregory Barker: DECC's first chief scientific adviser (CSA) joined the Department in October 2009.

The Department's chief scientific adviser is responsible for ensuring the best science and engineering advice underpins DECC's policy and decision-making. The resource budget for the CSA's Office is as follows:

CSA office budget

	Total (£000)
2009-10 from October 2009	180
2010-11	529
2011-12	614

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72464]

Gregory Barker: Since DECC was formed in October 2008 there has so far been only one chief scientific adviser appointed. The chief scientific adviser has been engaged by DECC since October 2009. His salary costs to date fall in the following pay brackets, as disclosed in the Remuneration Report of DECC's annual resource accounts: £65,000 to £70,000 in 2009-10 and £140,000 to £145,000 in 2010-11. The chief scientific officer is seconded to DECC from Cambridge University who are reimbursed for his payroll costs. No VAT is payable.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72465]

Gregory Barker: The office of chief scientific adviser was established on 1 October 2009.

Staffing levels for the support office (including the post of chief scientific adviser) are as follows:

March 2010: 3.8 FTE plus 0.8 on secondment, with salary costs covered 100% by seconding organisation;

March 2011: 4.8 FTE;

September 2011: 4.8 FTE including 1.0 FTE supporting policy analysis in other parts of DECC.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72466]

Gregory Barker: DECC does not apply a one-size-fits-all approach. NDPBs have terms of reference that set out how they will go about their activities. Contractors who provide scientific advice, or any other form of evidence, to DECC, are required in tender documentation to set out how they will acquire and quality assure the evidence they will provide. Tenders are scrutinised by experts within the Department and contracts are only awarded to those contractors who have demonstrated they can deliver high quality evidence.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72566]

Gregory Barker: The average hourly rates the Department paid external solicitors could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department paid the external barristers it engaged at the rates published on the Treasury Solicitor's Department's website:

	Per hour (£)
First Treasury Counsel	220
Queen's Counsel	180 to 250
Attorney-General's A panel of counsel	120
Attorney-General's B panel of counsel	100
Attorney-General's C panel of counsel	60 to 80

The Department uses the following guidance in commissioning external legal advice:

Attorney-General's guidelines on the use of the private sector for Government legal work

Treasury Solicitor's Department's guidance on the use of counsel

Government Legal Service guidance on best practice for Government lawyers managing private sector provision of legal services

Government Legal Service legal services procurement protocol

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) procurement code and procurement guidance, including guidance on the use of external law firms.

Some information covering sums above £500 paid directly to certain solicitors' firms and barristers DECC engaged in 2010-11 is available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/expenditure/spend_over_500/spend_over_500.aspx

Comprehensive information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress towards a single market in energy. [72296]

Charles Hendry: The third package of EU energy market liberalisation has established a framework for agreeing detailed cross-border technical codes. These will facilitate the linking of gas and electricity markets across national borders and provide practical impetus to the creation of a single EU energy market, consistent with the target of 2014 set by the European Council. Progress is being made on developing these codes; the first is likely to be agreed early next year.

Energy: Prices

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from energy consumers on charges in energy bills to underwrite decarbonisation. [72539]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials receive written responses to consultations, meet with consumer groups and respond to correspondence from consumers, domestic and business, on a regular basis relating to the costs associated with implementing its decarbonisation programmes.

Quarterly lists of DECC Ministers' meetings that involve outside interested parties are published on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Fuel Poverty

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to prevent households falling into fuel poverty as a result of the introduction of a floor price for carbon; what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of households in fuel poverty consequent upon such introduction; and if he will make a statement. [R] [72227]

Gregory Barker: The Government recognise that the carbon price floor will marginally increase consumer bills. The estimated impacts of a carbon price floor on fuel poverty were set out in an impact assessment that was published alongside the Carbon Price Floor Consultation in December 2010. These estimates suggested that a price floor targeting £30/tCO_2 would result in an additional 50,000-90,000 fuel poor households in England in 2020.

Government are committed to supporting vulnerable consumers and tackling fuel poverty and are putting in place a range of policies to contribute towards these aims. These include the introduction of the Warm Home Discount to assist more of the most vulnerable households with their energy bills and introducing the Green Deal from 2012 so that households can improve their energy efficiency at no upfront cost, repaying through their savings on energy bills.

Alongside this, the Energy Company Obligation will provide additional support to where it is most needed, including for the poorest and most vulnerable and for hard to treat homes. The carbon price floor consultation document and impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_carbon_price_support.htm

Methane: Arctic

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the most recent estimate is of the rate of Arctic methane release; what factors his Department has identified as contributing to such a release rate; and what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* historic and *(b)* potential effects on the environment of such a rate of release. [72156]

Gregory Barker: Recent research suggests that the rate of methane release from the high northern latitudes that include the Arctic is around 10 million to 40 million tonnes per year, approximately 2% to 8% of total global methane emissions and 5% to 20% of natural methane emissions.

As temperatures increase, the main factors contributing to this Arctic release rate are emissions from wetlands (which are the predominant source), melting permafrost, and methane hydrates beneath the Arctic ocean. Emissions from methane hydrates are, however, considered to be relatively very small and are most uncertain.

Research indicates that the increase in atmospheric methane concentrations since pre-industrial times, and their related temperature effects, have been caused by anthropogenic emissions and not by changes in natural emissions from high northern latitudes or other sources. Future methane releases from Arctic permafrost and wetlands are highly uncertain but are currently projected to increase as temperatures rise, thereby amplifying global warming and its potential impacts on ecosystems and societies.

Microgeneration Certification Scheme

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme on small companies operating as energy installers in Wales. [71708]

Gregory Barker: The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is a UK-wide scheme with coverage in Wales. The overall number of MCS installer companies is 3,269 companies in the UK, of which 124 are based in Wales. A breakdown is provided as follows of the number of installer companies for each technology for the period 2010-11:

	Number
Solar Thermal	38
Wind turbines	8
Hydro	4
GSHP	26
All MCS heat pumps	26
Micro C-HP	0
Solar PV	84
Biomass	8
ASHP	28

The Welsh Government (WG) have been taking forward a number of measures through the Energy Saving Trust. They support the Supply Chain Development Programme which helps Welsh installers to achieve MCS certification and aim to equips them with the tools, techniques and business connections to help them to compete for microgeneration contracts. They have provided interest-free loans for certification fees, subsidised QMS training, signposting to WG training and development and one to one guidance. The programme has also addressed the need to unlock the supply chain of a Welsh labour force working on Welsh homes. A number of events and seminars have been held across Wales to promote the scheme. As a result, a 254% rise in the number of certificated installers in Wales has occurred since 1 August 2010.

Nuclear Power Stations

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has considered the feasibility of constructing in the UK floating nuclear power stations similar to the MH-1A. [72602]

Charles Hendry: Ultimately it is for the industry to consider and propose what type of reactors they may wish to operate in the UK, the designs of which would be subject to independent regulatory assessment and acceptance. To date, no potential operator has put forward proposals for a floating plant in the UK.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Committee on Climate Change Renewable Energy Review, May 2011, page 40, what work his Department has done on uncertainties in respect of the *(a)* costs, *(b)* site availability, *(c)* long-term fuel supply and waste disposal and *(d)* public acceptability of nuclear power. [72674]

Charles Hendry: On page 40 of the Renewable Energy Review the Committee on Climate Change give its view that:

> "nuclear power should be part of the energy mix assuming safety concerns can be addressed, but that full reliance would be inappropriate"

given *(a)* to *(d)*.

The Government believe in having a diverse mix of all types of power generation so as to ensure that we are not dependent on any one type of generation or one source of fuel or power. This helps to ensure security of supply. Nuclear power is a low carbon proven technology which should be part of that energy mix.

The Government have carried out two public consultations on the Nuclear National Policy statement. The Government responses to these consultations summarise points made by the public and the Government's view on costs, suitability of sites and waste disposal and are available here:

Response to the 2010-11 consultation:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/meeting-energy-demand/consents-planning/nps2011/1945-govt-resp-consultation-on-nps.pdf

Response to the 2009-10 consultation:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110302182042/https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/docs/GovernmentResponsetoConsultation-October2010.pdf

Nuclear Power Stations: Accidents

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's assessment is of the risk of a disaster similar to *(a)* Fukushima and *(b)* Chernobyl happening in (i) the UK and (ii) the countries of the former Soviet Union. [72285]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), asked the UK Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide a report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry. This interim report was presented on 18 May 2011.

Dr Weightman's interim report gives a clear indication that the UK's current safety regime remains robust and therefore, so far as is reasonably practicable, the levels of protection currently in place are appropriate compared to the level of risk to ensure safety at the UK's nuclear power plants.

Dr Weightman is currently finalising his report and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) is working with industry on the UK input into the EU stress tests. Their progress reports, submitted on 15 September, showed that thus far operators and the ONR have failed to find any fundamental weaknesses at the UK's nuclear power plants.

The UK is currently actively participating in the efforts of the IAEA to strengthen the international nuclear safety framework with a view to raising standards of safety and thereby reducing the risk of a nuclear accident. However, in the event of a nuclear-related accident in another country, the UK has in place measures to respond to such an accident and would invoke its overseas nuclear accident plan.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department made a comparison of the safety of British nuclear reactors and *(a)* VVER-440, *(b)* VVER-1000, *(c)* Atucha, *(d)* HIFAR and *(e)* Fukushima models. [72286]

Charles Hendry: The Office for Nuclear Regulation is the UK's nuclear safety and security regulator.

In undertaking this work it adheres to the principle of continuous improvement, taking into account experience and lessons learned from the operation of other nuclear plants and regulatory regimes across the world.

Offshore Industry: Carbon Capture

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on investment in carbon capture and storage technologies in redundant offshore oil and gas fields. [72755]

Charles Hendry: The re-use of redundant offshore oil and gas facilities, where this is feasible and cost-effective, is one option for the permanent storage of carbon dioxide as part of carbon capture and storage. The Government introduced measures as part of the Energy Bill 2011 to facilitate the conversion of offshore oil and gas facilities to carbon dioxide storage. Additionally the CCS demonstration programme will facilitate the development of offshore storage opportunities, including the use of redundant oil and gas facilities where appropriate.

Renewable Energy

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the UK's energy requirement was met from *(a)* wind power, *(b)* solar power, *(c)* wave power and *(d)* other renewable energy sources in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [70831]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the proportion of primary energy supply, and electricity generation, met by wind power, solar power, wave power, and other renewable energy sources, in 2009 and 2010.

	Percentage of primary energy supply		*Percentage of electricity generation*	
	2009	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*
Wind power	0.4	0.4	2.5	2.7
Solar photovoltaics and active solar heating	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0
Wave power	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0
Other renewable energy sources[1]	2.8	2.9	4.2	4.1

[1] Excluding non-biodegradable wastes.

Primary energy supply data from tables DUKES 1.1 and 1.2, available at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/total/total.aspx

Primary renewable energy supply data from table DUKES 7.6, available at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

Total electricity generation data from table DUKES 5.6, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Renewable electricity generation data from table DUKES 7.4, available at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the *(a)* number and *(b)* average annual load factors of solar photovoltaic installations in receipt of feed-in tariffs that are situated (i) north of 57 degrees latitude and (ii) north of 58 degrees latitude. [72304]

Gregory Barker: The latitude of FIT installations is not recorded on the central register. The number of installations in the local authorities which lie on the latitudes mentioned are given in the following table. DECC uses an average load factor for photovoltaic installations across the UK as a whole, and this cannot currently be broken down on a regional basis. More specific load factor estimates may be available commercially.

Local authority	*Number of photovoltaic installations confirmed onto FITs register as at 31 August 2011*
57 degrees latitude	
Aberdeen City	39
Aberdeenshire	198
Moray	56
Highland	171
58 degrees latitude	
Eilean Siar	5
Orkney Islands	8
Shetland Islands	0

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates he informed representatives of the solar industry of proposed changes to support for solar feed-in tariff project extensions built within 12 months of the review start date of August 2011; and when he expects such changes to take effect. [71797]

Gregory Barker: Proposed changes to the rules on extensions under the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme were set out in a consultation which was published on 27 July 2011. On the same day stakeholders, including representatives of the solar industry, were notified of the consultation.

The consultation closed on 31 August and the decision document was published on 27 September with changes to be implemented 18 October 2011.

Timber: Imports

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of wood co-fired with coal in electricity generating plants that has been imported. [72302]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not hold information on the proportion of wood co-fired with coal in electricity generating plant sourced from outside the UK.

In 2010, 822,000 tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe) of biomass (which includes wood) was co-fired with fossil fuels (mainly coal), while 753,000 ktoe of biomass was imported for all energy use, including co-firing.

Source:

Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2011, tables 7.6 and 7.1, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

Warm Front Scheme

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households have had their applications accepted by the Warm Front scheme since the change to eligibility criteria in April 2011. [72505]

Gregory Barker: The Warm Front scheme has received and accepted 27,374 eligible applications from 14 April to 14 September 2011.

Wind Power

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many days in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011 wind farm operators were given constraint payments from non-generation. [72538]

Charles Hendry: Wind farm operators received constraint payments on the following number of days:

(a) 2010: three days, which involved overall constraint payments of £176,788 to a total of three different wind farms;

(b) 2011: 37 days (up to and including 14 September), which involved overall constraint payments of £6,959,915 to a total of 17 different wind farms.

National Grid takes thousands of actions every day to balance the system, including through the balancing mechanism where generators will make monetary bids and offers to alter their output. Nearly all of these actions relate to conventional (non-renewable) generation. This is a competitive market where National Grid will always pick the most cost-effective way to deliver what is required.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce the level of constraint payments to wind farm operators; and if he will make a statement. [72043]

Charles Hendry: Reducing or increasing the output of generators is a normal part of National Grid's role to balance supply and demand, and it will pick the most cost effective way to deliver what is required. However, the recent requirement to use wind farms in order to manage the system has raised questions as to whether the current market-wide balancing arrangements for wind are appropriate. National Grid has launched a consultation to seek views on the issues involved.

In the short-term, the Secretary of State is proposing to introduce a licence condition to tackle problems that can occur in the balancing market when normal competition is distorted by bottlenecks on the transmission system. Ofgem and DECC have been working closely together to develop this licence condition, which the Secretary of State is able to introduce under powers conferred by the Energy Act 2010. DECC will be consulting on the licence condition shortly, with a view to introducing it in 2012.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the responses of English local planning authorities to the questionnaires in section 5.4 of the Parsons Brinckerhoff report for his Department entitled Update of Shadow Flicker Evidence Base. [72066]

Charles Hendry: There are no plans to publish the responses of English local planning authorities to the questionnaires for the report on the Shadow Flicker Evidence Base. The questionnaires were completed on the understanding that the information within would be treated as strictly confidential and not to be passed to third parties or published.

The summary of responses can be found in the report. Responses were received from the following local planning authorities:

1. South Gloucestershire Council
2. Gloucester City Council
3. Tendring District Council
4. Barnsley Metropolitan Council
5. Lancaster City Council
6. Rossendale Borough Council
7. Uttlesford District Council
8. Charnwood Borough Council
9. Sheffield City Council
10. Warrington Borough Council
11. Northern Ireland Planning Service
12. City and County of Swansea
13. Orkney Islands Council.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equal Pay

Alison McGovern: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment the Government has made of the potential costs and benefits of introducing compulsory gender pay audits for larger companies in the last 12 months. [72379]

Lynne Featherstone: In the Modern Workplaces consultation published in May 2011, Government proposed that employers who are found at an employment tribunal to have discriminated because of sex in contractual or non-contractual pay should be made to conduct a pay audit.

The accompanying impact assessment included an initial estimate of the average cost of an equal pay audit as £8,800 but recognised that costs would vary significantly with the size and complexity of an employer's business. Benefits include, for example, making sure there is maximum use of employee's capacity and demonstrating fairness to employees.

In addition to the proposal in Modern Workplaces, Government are actively promoting voluntary, business-led approach to analysis and publication of equality data through the new "Think, Act, Report" initiative.

Equality: Age

Mr Marsden: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) what preparations the Government Equalities Office has made for communication to the public on commencement of the anti-age discrimination regulations arising from the Equality Act 2010; [72512]

(2) when the Government plan to bring into force a commencement order for the anti-age discrimination regulations arising from the Equality Act 2010. [72513]

Lynne Featherstone: We are currently considering the responses to the public consultation on exceptions to the proposed ban on age discrimination in the provision of services and public functions which took place earlier this year. We will announce how we intend to proceed in the Government's published response to the consultation in due course.

Marriage

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 703W, on marriage, when the Government Equalities Office expects to begin its consultation on reform of marriage and civil partnership law. [72623]

Lynne Featherstone: We announced on 17 September that we will publish a formal, Government consultation document in March 2012 which will consider options on equal civil marriage. This would allow us to make any legislative changes before the end of this Parliament.

We are clear that this will only cover civil marriage—not religious marriage. Between now and the publication of the consultation, we will be meeting with a wide range of people with an interest in this issue, including the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and religious and non-religious organisations, to help shape the formal consultation document.

DEFENCE

EU Defence Headquarters

12. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on the proposal to establish an EU defence headquarters. [72910]

Dr Fox: NATO remains the cornerstone of UK defence. I have always been clear that the UK opposes the creation of a permanent EU operational military headquarters. It would be a duplication of existing capability provided by NATO, would permanently disassociate the EU from NATO and would be an unnecessary use of resources.

The Minister for International Security Strategy, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth), emphasised our position at the Informal Meeting of EU Ministers of Defence in Poland on 22-23 September 2011. I will continue to take every opportunity to reinforce this message with our European and NATO partners.

Civilian Jobs

16. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the change has been in the number of civilian jobs in his Department since May 2010. [72914]

Mr Robathan: Defence statistics show that, on a full-time equivalent basis, there were 85,850 civilian employees in the Ministry of Defence on 1 April 2010.

As at 1 July 2011—the latest date for which information is available—this total had reduced to 81,150. These figures therefore show a reduction of 4,700 full-time equivalent employees over that 15-month period.

Reserve Forces

18. **Richard Graham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the capabilities of the reserve forces. [72916]

Mr Robathan: In his oral statement on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-645, the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), confirmed a package of investment amounting to more than £2.8 billion over 10 years, of which £400 million will be within the life of this Parliament. This package has been designed to enhance the capability of the reserve forces and consequently increase their trained strength following the recommendations of the Future Reserves Independent Commission.

NATO Transformation

20. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on NATO transformation. [72918]

Dr Fox: A continual process of reform and transformation is vital for the health of any organisation. NATO is no different and the UK is playing a leading role in ensuring our alliance remains fit for purpose. In June, Defence Ministers agreed to a more streamlined and more effective command structure including the UK keeping the maritime component command at Northwood. We are working to put the new command structure in place as soon as possible.

British Army Training Unit Suffield

21. **Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the memorandum of understanding between his Department and the Department of National Defence of Canada concerning the British Army Training Unit Suffield is due to be renegotiated. [72920]

Nick Harvey: The memorandum of understanding between the MOD and the Department of National Defence of Canada concerning the British Army Training Unit Suffield is open-ended and may be renegotiated at any time with the mutual consent of both parties.

Afghanistan

22. **Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [72921]

Dr Fox: The 2010 ISAF troop surge has brought significant security gains to the south of Afghanistan in 2011. However, the insurgency is resilient and remains a nationwide threat, as the recent attacks in Kabul have demonstrated.

I am encouraged by the continued progress being made by the Afghan National Security Forces who increasingly demonstrate their competence, whether in response to high-profile attacks in Kabul, in joint operations with ISAF, or in areas where security transition has begun.

Military Covenant

23. **Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to strengthen the military covenant. [72922]

Mr Robathan: On 16 May 2011, the Government published the new armed forces covenant, and announced a series of measures to strengthen the covenant, building on those already included in the coalition programme for government. We have also launched the armed forces community covenant to encourage activities which help to integrate the armed forces community into local life.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK troops will remain in Afghanistan beyond 2015 to provide military training and assistance. [72597]

Nick Harvey: As the Prime Minister announced to the House on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1511-1514, by the end of 2014 there will be nothing like the number of British troops which are in Afghanistan now and they will not be serving in a combat role. However, the UK will continue to have a military relationship with Afghanistan after 2014. The UK will continue to train Afghan security forces and we will provide the lead at a new Afghan National Army Officer Academy from 2013. At this stage it is too early to comment on the exact number of troops who will be deployed in these non-combat roles from 2015 and beyond.

Alix Partners

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department reached its agreement with Alix Partners; what estimate he has made of the savings accruing to his Department as a result of the agreement since it came into force; what the average daily rate paid to external consultants by his Department is; how much his Department has paid to individual Alix Partners consultants in consultancy fees since May 2010; how many *(a)* Alix Partners and *(b)* other consultants have qualified for a success fee from his Department since May 2010; and on how many occasions Alix Partners consultants qualified for such a success fee since May 2010. [72204]

Peter Luff: Alix Partners were appointed on 15 November 2010 to support the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to renegotiate contracts in order to deliver savings as a result of decisions taken in the strategic defence and security review (SDSR). The MOD did not have the highly specialised skills required to undertake this work in the timescales. The savings the Department will accrue will depend on a number of issues, the detail of which I am withholding as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

The average daily rate for each Alix Partners consultant is £3,950, and the Department has paid a total of £5.5 million under the contract so far. 12 Alix Partners consultants have qualified for the payment of an additional "success fee" under the contract on two occasions.

Information about the total number of all other consultants who have qualified for a success fee from the Department since May 2010 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The contract with Alix Partners has already proven its value and, without prejudice to our commercial negotiation, I can confirm that it has helped to save the Department hundreds of millions of pounds.

Armed Forces: Craigiehall

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which personnel in which units are based at Craigiehall; and how many *(a)* Army and *(b)* civilian personnel there are in each unit. [72583]

Mr Robathan: We do not comment on individual personnel. The units based in Craigiehall and the numbers of Army and civilian personnel in each unit are shown in the following table:

	Army	*Civilian*
Headquarters 2nd Division	89	122
11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment RLC	24	2
2 Military Intelligence Battalion	6	0
Army Recruiting Group	0	7
Headquarters 51 Brigade	60	12
Defence Fire & Risk Management Organisation	0	1
Army Welfare Service	0	4
Headquarters Land Forces Branches	8	0
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	0	8
Other	2	1
Total	189	157

This is based on the latest available numbers for Army and civilian personnel.

Armed Forces: Edinburgh

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of service family accommodation at *(a)* Redford and *(b)* Dreghorn Barracks will be used in each of the next five years; and which personnel are expected to be housed at each site during this period. [72584]

Mr Robathan: 87% of service family accommodation (SFA) at Redford and Dreghorn Barracks is currently being used to house service personnel and their families.

It is too early to say at this time what the exact future usage or requirement for SFA in Edinburgh may be, although it is likely that all current housing stock across the Edinburgh area will be needed to meet an ongoing requirement to house entitled service families.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who will fulfil the *(a)* duties as Governor of Edinburgh Castle and in respect of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and *(b)* other additional and ceremonial roles previously carried out by the General Officer Commanding 2nd Division after the 2nd Division Headquarters move to Aldershot in 2012; and where the person who takes over these roles will be based. [72585]

Nick Harvey: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of the changes in the Army as set out in the Defence Transformation statement made by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45W.

It is too early to say who will fulfil the duties as Governor of Edinburgh Castle or the other duties mentioned but our plans will ensure that these duties will be serviced by a 2-star Army officer, who will be based in Scotland.

For clarification, HQ 2nd Division will not move to Aldershot in 2012. As announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 66-70WS, 2nd Division will disband in 2012 along with HQ 4th Division at Aldershot and HQ 5th Division at Shrewsbury, upon the creation of a single 2-star support command, to be known as HQ Support Command, which will be based in Aldershot.

Armed Forces: Military Decorations

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons UK military personnel may be awarded EU service medals; and whether they are allowed to wear them. [70857]

Mr Robathan: The involvement of the United Kingdom's armed forces in operations around the world may give rise to the award of a European Union service medal.

There are four European medals which have been approved for UK armed forces personnel who meet the relevant criteria. These are:

WEU Mission (Yugoslavia), which has been approved for wear.

European Community Monitoring Mission (Yugoslavia), which has been approved for wear.

European Security Forces: Congo, which has not been approved for wear.

European Security and Defence Policy Service Medal for Operation ALTHEA (Bosnia and Herzegovina), which has been approved for wear (with the exception of the Planning and Support version).

Each new offer of such a medal requires a proposal by the Ministry of Defence, the support of the Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals (known as the HD Committee), and the approval of the Sovereign. In general, proposals should demonstrate that those on the operation have endured a period of risk and rigour. However, proposals that would result in "double medalling", which is the simultaneous qualification for a United Kingdom medal and an international organisation's medal, are not supported.

Armed Forces: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were recruited to the armed forces through armed forces career offices in the Yorkshire and Humberside area in each year since 2001. [71493]

Mr Robathan: The following tables provide the number of entrants from recruitment centres in the Yorkshire and Humberside area. These give an indication of the numbers recruited from that area but do not provide a comprehensive picture of where these individuals may reside as they may not always apply to join the Services through their nearest career office or may choose other means by which to apply.

Royal Navy and Royal Marine officers are primarily recruited via regional officer careers liaison centres, each of which covers a large area of the UK. Prior to 2009-10 they were not recruited through armed forces career offices. The recruitment data for Army officers are based on data related to the location of the schools and universities from which officers are recruited together with the small number recruited via careers offices. Army officer entrant figures before 2007-08 were collected on a different basis than currently and are not included.

Figures are not available for all years requested as over time various IT systems have been used which are not now compatible with current systems.

In the following tables these abbreviations are used:

AFCO—Armed Forces Career Office

ACIO—Army Career Information Office.

Royal Navy and Royal Marine other rank entrants

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
AFCO Hull	106	80	88	90	89	72	95	66
AFCO Leeds	79	95	103	88	62	100	140	94
AFCO Sheffield	83	82	89	69	85	85	89	52

Army Officers

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
North East	11	56	88	81

Army other ranks

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
ACIO Bradford	143	172	170	131	139	154	119	143	158	116
ACIO Catterick	24	32	25	18	24	39	31	46	64	32
ACIO Doncaster	132	132	143	84	133	143	112	151	127	89
ACIO Grimsby	112	117	110	84	78	79	82	64	93	87
ACIO Halifax	64	67	71	44	50	38	59	50	63	45
ACIO Huddersfield	133	140	104	81	63	95	41	84	72	76
ACIO Scarborough	85	104	48	56	51	70	62	66	39	53
ACIO Wakefield	129	129	107	95	85	119	141	150	129	64
ACIO York	76	107	58	54	74	87	97	95	99	85
AFCO Hull	307	436	255	213	256	304	294	335	315	279
AFCO Leeds	656	693	631	523	547	677	572	630	624	440
AFCO Sheffield	371	378	413	277	303	376	335	341	383	248

RAF Officer and other ranks entrants

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
AFCO Hull	75	41	23	51	66	95	73	27
AFCO Leeds	137	79	60	69	85	123	132	56
AFCO Sheffield	101	64	64	84	113	131	168	50
Senior Career Liaison Officer RAF Linton on Ouse	3	2	4	7	6	8	6	4

Armed Forces: Young People

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the armed forces were under the age of 18 in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [72820]

Mr Robathan: The following table provides information on the total strength of the armed forces as at 1 April each year and the proportion of that strength under the age of 18 years.

	Total strength	*Proportion under 18 years (Percentage)*
2008	186,910	2.4
2009	188,600	2.5
2010	191,660	1.8
2011	186,360	1.4

Challenger Tanks

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's Business Plan 2011-2015, how much has been saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the reduction of holdings of Challenger 2 main battle tanks by 40%. [71299]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Reflecting a reduction in Challenger 2 numbers and track activity, the savings over the next four years are expected to be:

				£ million
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource DEL (near cash)	5	10	10	10
Capital DEL	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Less than 5.

They do not include any savings in depreciation or the costs of writing the assets down, which cannot be calculated until the future of the surplus equipment has been determined.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million; the Capital DEL element of the savings is less than £5 million in total over the four-year period.

Chinook Helicopters

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the contract cost for his Department's order for Chinook helicopters is associated with a follow-up five-year service agreement. [72112]

Peter Luff: The details of the initial five-year service arrangements for the new Chinooks have yet to be finalised but, based on experience of similar arrangements, we expect the initial support package following entry into service to be some 10% of the approximate £1 billion total value of the procurement.

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any British manufacturers were invited to tender for the order for Chinook helicopters. [72113]

Peter Luff: In the Chinook new buy decision, all available procurement options were considered, including open competition. Based on the key criteria of value for money to the UK taxpayer and confidence in delivery of the project with lowest risk to schedule and cost, it was decided in accordance with EU Competition Law, to pursue a single source procurement with Boeing.

As well as formal arrangements in place between UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and Boeing on UK industrial participation, we have successfully encouraged Boeing to make full use of the UK supply base on the Chinook new buy contract where this has no adverse impact on the programme schedule and continues to provide value for money.

We estimate that over the next 10 years the UK economy will benefit by some £350 million as a direct result of this contract.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets; [72685]

(2) what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72699]

Peter Luff: The Defence travel contract, which includes providing airline tickets for use by Ministry of Defence (MOD) personnel, was awarded to the Hogg Robinson Group in 2007. The company has negotiated rates with 28 airlines covering 432 domestic and international routes.

No other arrangements are in place for the provision of MOD air travel and personnel are mandated to use the contract which allows discounted air fares to be provided with lower administration costs than if individuals were to book direct through commercial travel companies. Where negotiated rates have been agreed, the contract also offers other benefits including the provision of more favourable terms and conditions of travel, increased baggage allowances and flight cancellations without incurring additional costs. This has resulted in considerable savings being achieved across the MOD. In financial year 2010-11 around £60 million was saved on air travel.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial savings are expected to be made in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from reducing the non-deployable regional administrative structure; and over what period those savings are expected to be made. [71281]

Dr Fox: As a result of the restructuring of the Army's non-deployable regional administrative structure, we expect to save some £20 million in Resource DEL each year on an enduring basis from 2013-14.

Research and Development

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's definition is of *(a)* research and development budget and *(b)* science and technology budget. [72518]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) uses the internationally recognised Frascati definition of research and development as covering three elements: pure or basic research, which generates new knowledge for its own sake; applied research, in which knowledge generation is directed towards a specific practical aim; and development where such knowledge is applied to a new service, device or product.

The term science and technology programme refers to the MOD research programme under the Department's chief scientific adviser.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's research and development budget was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the budget will be in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [72519]

Peter Luff: Ministry of Defence (MOD) research and development expenditure is published in "UK Defence Statistics 2011" (Table 1.7), which is available at the following website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2011/c1/table107.php

The most recently published figures for net MOD research and development spending across MOD, inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at current prices are as follows:

Financial year	*Research and development expenditure (£ million)*
2005-06	2,243
2006-07	2,124
2007-08	2,139
2008-09	1,991
2009-10	1,742

There is no fixed forward budget for research and development because development expenditure is mostly part of the equipment programme applied as needed against the development requirements of individual projects.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's science and technology budget was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the budget will be in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [72520]

Peter Luff: Expenditures from the centralised Ministry of Defence (MOD) science and technology programme under the Department's chief scientific adviser, and the total net research expenditure by the MOD, for each of the past five years (inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at current prices) are:

Financial year	*Total MOD research expenditure (£ million)*	*Of which, science and technology programme expenditure (£ million)*
2005-06	598	475
2006-07	632	498
2007-08	635	519
2008-09	584	480
2009-10	567	446

The current planned budget for the centralised MOD science and technology programme under the Department's Chief Scientific Adviser, reflecting Defence planning round (PR11), for each year of the comprehensive review period (rounded to the nearest £5 million) is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Science and technology programme planned budget (£ million[1])*
2010-11	415
2011-12	435
2012-13	420
2013-14	410
2014-15	470

[1] Nearest £5 million

The Department is conducting its routine annual planning round (PR 12), which will conclude in spring 2012, and may result in changes in the figures. However, as I have previously said to the House, the MOD's science and technology budget will rise in cash terms over the comprehensive spending review period.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72459]

Peter Luff: The running costs for the office of the Ministry of Defence's chief scientific adviser (CSA) in each of the last five years, comprising CSA and the immediate administrative support staff is as follows:

Financial year	*Cost (£000)*
2006-07	520
2007-08	426
2008-09	402
2009-10	439
2010-11	444

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72460]

Peter Luff: Two individuals have held the post of chief scientific adviser in the Ministry of Defence in the past five years:

Professor Sir Roy Anderson FRS FMedSci: October 2004 to September 2007

Professor Sir Mark Welland FRS FREng: April 2008 to date.

From October 2007 to March 2008 Professor Anderson continued to provide advice to the Department on scientific issues as required.

Details of their salaries and benefits are published in the Department's Annual Resource Accounts which are available at following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

A copy of the document is available in the Library of the House.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72461]

Peter Luff: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in the immediate outer office of the chief scientific adviser (CSA) for the Ministry of Defence (MOD), comprising CSA and the immediate administrative support staff, in each of the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of staff (FTE)*
2006-07	4.8
2007-08	4.8
2008-09	3.8
2009-10	3.8
2010-11	3.8

The MOD had a chief scientific adviser when the Department was established in 1964.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72462]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is committed to handling science and engineering advice in accordance with the Government chief scientific adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making".

EU Defence Policy

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of previous experience of participating in *(a)* EU military structures and *(b)* the EU Defence Agency; and what recent assessment he has made of the Government's ability to influence the direction of EU military policies. [72260]

Mr Gerald Howarth: NATO remains the cornerstone of UK defence. Participation in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations—and their access to wider economic, legal and diplomatic tools—should support or complement this primary role of NATO in meeting European defence and security requirements.

Following our last assessment of the European Defence Agency (EDA) in autumn 2010, we decided that the UK would continue to participate in the EDA for a period of two years (until autumn 2012), at which time we want to see if UK membership in the EDA brings sufficient benefits to warrant Britain's continued membership.

Through our participation in the Common Security and Defence Policy, the UK has helped to influence the development of EU military policies. We secured a freeze in the EDA's defence budget, led opposition to the establishment of an EU operational HQ and shifted the debate within the EU on developing capability, not structures, and on more robust anti-piracy measures.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the introduction of qualified majority voting in EU defence matters. [72261]

Mr Gerald Howarth: There are three areas where qualified majority voting can be applied to decision making: for certain decisions relating to Permanent Structured Co-operation (PESCO); the decision making powers of the European Defence Agency Steering Board; and establishing procedures for a start-up fund. These were agreed by the previous Government under the introduction of the Lisbon treaty, the ratification of which the Conservative party opposed.

The UK's policy is that qualified majority voting should not be used in any other areas and we would oppose any moves to expand qualified majority voting on defence matters.

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the criteria are for an EU member state to take part in Permanent Structured Co-operation. [R] [72305]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The provisions on Permanent Structured Co-operation (PESCO) were introduced by the Lisbon treaty and the criteria can be found in articles 42(6) and 46 and protocol (No. 10) to the treaties. The Lisbon treaty was ratified by the previous Government.

EU Defence Policy: Offices

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with non-EU members of NATO about the proposal to the EU High Representative by France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Poland that the EU should establish an EU military operational headquarters; and what representations he has received from *(a)* the US, *(b)* Canada, *(c)* Turkey and *(d)* Norway on this proposal. [72258]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I have always been clear that the UK opposes the creation of a permanent EU operational military headquarters and continue to be so in my discussions with NATO and European partners including at the recent informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers last month. I have not received any formal representations from non-EU members of NATO on this subject.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the total resources required to establish an effective EU military operational headquarters. [72259]

Mr Gerald Howarth: While the Ministry of Defence has not conducted a formal assessment, we believe that neither has the EU. The establishment and development of a new EU institution and associated subordinate command functions would add substantial costs over existing structures. The UK opposes a permanent EU operational headquarters (OHQ) for reasons other than cost alone. We have been clear that establishment of a permanent OHQ would be a duplication of existing capability provided by NATO, would permanently disassociate the EU from NATO and would be an unnecessary use of resources.

Mr Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the creation of a permanent EU operational headquarters; and if he will make a statement. [72311]

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the proposal to the EU High Representative by France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Poland that the EU should establish an EU military operational headquarters without UK support by means of the structured co-operation mechanism established by the Treaty of Lisbon; what his policy is on participation in such an EU military operational headquarters; and what representations he plans to make to his EU counterparts on this issue. [72257]

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the creation of a Permanent EU operational headquarters; and if he will make a statement. [72743]

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the creation of a permanent EU operational headquarters; and if he will make a statement. [R] [72306]

Mr Gerald Howarth: NATO remains the cornerstone of UK defence.

We see no justification for a permanent EU military operational headquarters (OHQ) and would oppose it, whether there is an attempt to create it by Permanent Structured Co-operation (PESCO) or other means. We have been clear that the establishment of a permanent OHQ would be a duplication of existing capability provided by NATO, would permanently disassociate the EU from NATO and would be an unnecessary waste of resources.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary rejected the case for the establishment of an OHQ at the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 July 2011, a position I repeated emphatically at the informal meeting of Ministers of Defence in Wroclaw, Poland on 22-23 September 2011. The UK will continue to reinforce this message with our European partners at every opportunity.

Helicopters: Technology

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the Brownout Landing Aid System Technology for installation on armed forces helicopters. [72349]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to minimising the risk to our personnel when helicopters have to land with limited visibility. This is a matter not simply of new equipment, but also of ensuring that we have the right training, tactics, techniques and procedures in place.

Through our research programme run by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), we maintain close links with industry to monitor technologies in this area, including the Brownout Landing Aid System Technology (BLAST) programme. We are closely monitoring the development of BLAST, as well as other industrial solutions and assessing them all against our requirement. No decisions have been made on the most effective technical approach to mitigating the risks to helicopters from limited visibility landing.

HMS Protector

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work was planned to be carried out on HMS Protector before it was taken over by the Royal Navy; and what work was subsequently carried out that had not been anticipated. [72618]

Peter Luff: Work planned to be carried out by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on HMS Protector started after the signing of the lease and is to be completed before her first deployment later this year. This work included the fitting of: hydrographic systems; secure military communications including satellite television; force protection; petrol stowage; mounts for two rigid hull inflatable boats; and an enhanced navigation system.

The small amount of additional work completed by the MOD covers the fitting of a small craft davit and a high definition radar, and the re-designing of military communications equipment to adapt it for use by HMS Protector.

HMS Protector is on schedule to deploy for the first time around the end of the year.

Military Bases: Edinburgh

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any valuations have been carried out of United Kingdom Land Command sites at *(a)* Redford Barracks, *(b)* Dreghorn Barracks and *(c)* Craigiehall in the last 10 years. [72586]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence values its estate on a rolling five year programme for asset purposes. The latest asset valuations can be found in the National Asset Register, published by the Stationary Office on the following website:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm70/7022/7022.pdf

A copy is available in the Library of the House.

The Department does not routinely assess the current market value of all its estate because the estimated receipts will depend on market conditions and other factors at the time of sale. However, the indicative market values of these sites was reviewed in March 2011 as part of the ongoing basing review.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 89W, on military bases: Edinburgh, what annual costs are associated with the private finance initiative agreement with Bannockburn Homes Ltd used to fund some service family accommodation for Redford and Dreghorn Barracks; and whether these costs change for any period in which the accommodation is unused. [72588]

Mr Robathan: In order to accommodate entitled service personnel based across Edinburgh, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) leases 103 service family accommodation (SFA) properties under a private finance initiative with Bannockburn Homes Ltd at an annual cost in 2010-11 of £2.2 million for rent and services.

This cost does not vary if properties are unoccupied. The MOD maintains a small management margin of void SFA properties in order to ensure that homes are available for families when required.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what listed buildings in each category there are at *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Redford Barracks and *(c)* Dreghorn Barracks. [72599]

Mr Robathan: The requested information is as shown in the following table:

Building description	*Listing category*
Craigiehall House elevations and interior	A
Walled Garden including Gatepiers	A
Craigiehall Sundials	A
Craigiehall Dovecot	B
Stable Court, Including Walls and Gatepiers	C
Redford Cavalry Barracks with Officer's Mess	B
Balaclava House	B
Guard House	B
Gates	B
Gatepiers	B
Sergeant's Mess	B
Former Band Block	B
Education Block	B
Former Stables	B
Stores and other ancillary buildings	B
Dreghorn Barracks Guard House	C
Barrack Block	C
Band Block	C
Battalion Headquarters	C

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of maps of the Defence Estate lands in Edinburgh which his Department proposes to sell. [72600]

Mr Robathan: Copies of plans showing the extent of the Ministry of Defence landholdings at Craigiehall, Redford and Dreghorn Barracks will be placed in the Library of the House.

The precise boundary of the land to be disposed of will be determined nearer to the time of any sale.

Military Bases: Kirknewton

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1151-52W, on military bases, what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the location for the tank training ground for the proposed new Multi-Role Brigade at Kirknewton; and whether a site has been identified. [72587]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently investigating options put forward by the Scottish Government for the location of the proposed new training area. The MOD will continue to consult with the Scottish Government as we work through these options, but it is too early to confirm any further details of our exact requirements.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the amount of additional traffic movement that will be generated by the proposed new base at Kirknewton, taking into account deliveries, commuting of personnel remaining in service family accommodation at Redford and Dreghorn Barracks in Edinburgh, movements of personnel living at the base, and all other traffic. [72598]

Mr Robathan: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up detailed plans for the future of Kirknewton, which will include an assessment of the likely effect on local transport. This will involve the appropriate and necessary engagement with partners such as the Scottish Government, West Lothian council and the relevant other Government Departments and agencies. We have a shared interest in managing local issues, such as transport, as effectively as we can for the benefit of both the local community and for our own personnel.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 6 September 2011, *Official Report,* columns 844-45W, on RAF Kirknewton, when in 2012 the further ecological survey into water quality at Kirknewton, West Lothian, will take place; when his Department's Land Quality Assessment programme for 2011-12 will take place; and if he will place in the Library copies of each report when they are completed. [72603]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Infrastructure Organisation plans to carry out a further ecological survey at Kirknewton in February 2012, in order to enable a direct comparison with the findings of the initial survey. The exact timings will, however, be dependent upon factors such as the weather.

The current phase of the Ministry of Defence estate-wide Land Quality Assessment (LQA) programme runs from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. In the case of RAF Kirknewton the phase two LQA is scheduled to start in November 2011 and will involve an intrusive investigation. The exact timings of the LQA will also be dependent upon factors such as the weather.

Copies of both reports will be placed in the Library of the House once they are completed.

Radar: Wind Power

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in the search for potential mitigation solutions to prevent radar clutter and aircraft obscuration caused by turbines; and if he will make a statement. [72246]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has reached agreement with wind energy developers to provide Lockheed Martin TPS77 air defence radars as mitigation against specific wind farm radar interference concerns.

The MOD is continuing to work with the wind energy industry and the Department of Energy and Climate Change to assess other potential mitigation solutions for air defence, air traffic control and precision approach radars.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether NATO has issued guidance on acceptable levels of interference by wind farms with air defence radar. [72248]

Peter Luff: NATO has not issued guidance on acceptable levels of interference by wind farms with air defence radar. Acceptable levels are assessed on a site-by-site basis, and will be influenced by the technical characteristics of the affected radar system and the strategic importance of the airspace near the wind farm.

Transport

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the *(a)* radar additional study and *(b)* data transport study have completed; and when he plans to place copies in the Library. [72247]

Peter Luff: Both studies have completed and redacted copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Unmanned Air Vehicles: Ammunition

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what munitions can be carried by the Watchkeeper 450 unmanned air system. [72350]

Peter Luff: None. The current design of the Watchkeeper unmanned air system precludes the carrying of munitions.

SCOTLAND

Scotland Bill 2010-12

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many times the joint Exchequer Group to consider the implementation of the Scotland Bill has met since its formation; and when it will next meet. [72007]

Michael Moore: The Joint Exchequer Committee met for the first time on 27 September 2011, and it is intended that it will meet at least biannually.

Taxation: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many times the High Level Implementation Group that advises on the practical implications of implementing the Calman Commission's taxation proposals has met since its formation; and when it will next meet. [72008]

Michael Moore: The High Level Implementation Group met on 26 July and 4 November 2010, and 28 February 2011. It will meet again in late October.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Aviation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72709]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office has a contract with a travel management company which is expected to ensure best value for money when purchasing airline tickets, balancing cost effectiveness against the individual requirements of each request. We monitor expenditure on tickets on a continuous basis at the initial order stage and routinely check subsequent invoices for accuracy. We hold twice-yearly meetings with the travel company in order to review the effectiveness of existing route deals and ticket spend.

In addition, staff are encouraged to book flights well in advance of travel whenever possible, to take advantage of lower fares; to avoid changing flights unless there is a pressing business need to do so; and are required to travel economy at all times unless there is a clear business need to do otherwise.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72573]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office does not have an in-house legal team. It receives legal support from a range of Government bodies, including the Crown Solicitor's Office for Northern Ireland, the Treasury Solicitor's Office, the Home Office Legal Advisor's Branch, and the Departmental Solicitor's Office. The Northern Ireland Office does not commission external legal advice itself, but in acting on behalf of the Department, these bodies will from time to time engage counsel.

Security

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues and *(b)* Ministers in the (i) Scottish and (ii) Welsh Government on security issues since May 2010. [72169]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, I have had a number of discussions with Cabinet colleagues on Northern Ireland-related security issues. This has included discussions in Cabinet and in the National Security Council. I have had no formal meetings to discuss security issues with Ministers in the Scottish and Welsh Assembly Governments during that time.

Inquiries

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on inquiries into events in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001. [72173]

Mr Paterson: The total costs of the four Northern Ireland public inquiries, in each year since 2001 are set out in the following table:

£

	Bloody Sunday Inquiry[1] (end May 2010)	*Robert Hamill Inquiry (end February 2011)*	*Rosemary Nelson Inquiry (end May 2011)*	*Billy Wright Inquiry (end August 2010)*
2000-01	19,345,573	—	—	—
2001-02	19,179,164	—	—	—

£

	Bloody Sunday Inquiry[1] *(end May 2010)*	*Robert Hamill Inquiry (end February 2011)*	*Rosemary Nelson Inquiry (end May 2011)*	*Billy Wright Inquiry (end August 2010)*
2002-03	25,771,371	—	—	—
2003-04	27,322,499	—	—	—
2004-05	14,373,390	409,738	551,586	58,848
2005-06	7,161,967	3,408,142	3,525,774	2,261,855
2006-07	9,518,864	6,186,984	10,335,687	4,437,849
2007-08	5,053,994	4,329,846	10,272,333	8,604,601
2008-09	4,867,038	9,157,856	14,651,183	8,955,958
2009-10	3,199,837	7,778,895	5,081,501	4,817,835
2010-11	503,258	1,596,736	1,924,195	692,373
2011-12	—	—	114,725	—
Total	136,296,955	32,868,197	46,456,984	29,829,319

[1] The Bloody Sunday Inquiry was established in 1998 and was funded by the Northern Ireland Office. Costs in relation to the inquiry were also incurred by the Ministry of Defence. The total cost of the inquiry to the NIO since its establishment in 1998 was £155.6 million. In addition, the MOD incurred a total of £35.6 million. The total cost of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry was therefore £191.2 million.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on payments to lawyers in relation to inquiries held on events in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001. [72172]

Mr Paterson: The legal costs of the four Northern Ireland public inquiries, in each year since 2001 are set out in the following table:

£

	Bloody Sunday Inquiry[1] *(end May 2010)*	*Robert Hamill Inquiry (end February 2011)*	*Rosemary Nelson Inquiry (end May 2011)*	*Billy Wright Inquiry (end August 2010)*
2000-01	7,371,628	—	—	—
2001-02	8,456,941	—	—	—
2002-03	7,475,621	—	—	—
2003-04	11,323,226	—	—	—
2004-05	7,722,725	69,736	213,577	—
2005-06	3,108,239	1,533,793	650,968	947,849
2006-07	6,013,519	1,448,322	3,595,705	1,348,436
2007-08	1,714,001	1,745,229	4,795,714	2,171,188
2008-09	1,177,297	5,213,683	5,895,561	3,353,645
2009-10	894,000	3,805,212	1,563,159	2,016,954
2010-11	121,435	101,135	162,524	2,587
2011-12	—	—	407	—
Total	55,378,632	13,917,110	16,877,615	9,840,659

[1] The Bloody Sunday Inquiry was established in 1998 and was funded by the Northern Ireland Office. Costs in relation to the inquiry were also incurred by the Ministry of Defence. The legal costs incurred by the inquiry since its establishment in 1998 were £67.6 million. In addition, the Ministry of Defence incurred £32.6 million in legal costs. The total legal cost of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry was therefore £100.2 million.

Terrorism

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the level of threat from dissident Republicans in Northern Ireland; and what his equivalent assessment was 12 months ago. [72170]

Mr Paterson: The threat level in Northern Ireland remains at SEVERE, the same level as in October 2010. Despite the overwhelming community rejection of violence, terrorist groups continue to pose an indiscriminate threat to the lives of police officers and the general public.

WALES

Big Society

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with reference to the Wales Office Annual Report 2010-11, when she expects the big society seminar to take place. [71711]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office big society seminar took place on 12 September, with guest speakers including the Minister for Civil Society, my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd), and Nick O'Donohoe, CEO of Big Society Capital, taking part.

It was a well attended event with over 50 delegates from across the full spectrum of Welsh civil society including the private, public, voluntary and charitable sectors.

Broadcasting Programmes: Welsh Language

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the Commission on Devolution for Wales will consider *(a)* Welsh language broadcasting and *(b)* the scrutiny of and support required by police commissioners in Wales. [68692]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), made a written ministerial statement on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 115WS, informing the House of our plans so far on establishing a Commission on Devolution in Wales. Further announcements on the process will be made after recess.

Business Advisory Group

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales who the members are of the Wales Office Business Advisory Group. [71712]

Mrs Gillan: The participants at each meeting of the Wales Office Business Advisory Group are invited on an individual basis. The attendees of the most recent session in June were:

Paul Gorin (Smart Solutions Recruitment)
Phil Orford (Forum for Private Business)
Iestyn Davies (Federation of Small Businesses)
Steve Thomas (Airbus)
Uday Chaturvedi (Tata Steel UK)
Wayne Powell (IBERS, Aberystwyth University)
David Williams (Chairman of Llandudno Hospitality Association)
Colin Orr Burns (Dragon LNG)
Professor George Boyne (Cardiff University)
Graham Hillier (Toyota).

Constituency Boundaries

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has had any discussions with the Ministers in the Welsh Government on the time taken to announce the outcome of the constituency boundaries review in Wales. [71714]

Mr David Jones: The Boundary Commission for Wales is expected to publish proposals for new parliamentary constituencies in Wales in January 2012. Neither the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), nor I have discussed this with Welsh Government Ministers.

Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from her Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66747]

Mr David Jones: The information requested is given in the following table. The Wales Office has a programme of work in place to reduce its carbon emissions and environmental impact through, for example, greater use of video conferencing and recycling.

	Tonnes
(a) June 2010	4.67
(b) June 2011	4.22

Legal Opinion: Costs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by her Department in 2010-11; what guidance her Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if she will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by her Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72577]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the annual value is of her Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66625]

Mr David Jones: My Department holds two contracts currently: one is for the hosting of our websites and has an annual value of £6,936; the other is for the cleaning of our Cardiff office and has an annual value of £7,715.76.

Devolution: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when she plans to announce the *(a)* chair and *(b)* membership of the Commission on Devolution for Wales; and what criteria she plans to use to determine the membership. [68697]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), made a written ministerial statement on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 115WS, informing the House of our plans so far on establishing a Commission on Devolution in Wales. Further announcements on the process will be made after recess.

Energy Supply

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the Commission on Devolution for Wales will consider the case for the devolution of decision-making on consents for energy projects with a generating capacity of 50 to 100 megawatts. [69396]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), made a written ministerial statement on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 115WS, informing the House of our plans so far on establishing a Commission on Devolution in Wales. Further announcements on the process will be made after recess.

Enterprise Zones

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the oral answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 939, what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of Wales on delivering benefits from enterprise zones in Wales. [71783]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), has had continued discussions with the First Minister on this issue and recently wrote seeking confirmation on when a decision on the establishment of enterprise zones in Wales will be announced.

We were therefore pleased to see the announcement on 20 September by the Welsh Government setting out plans for five sector-based enterprise zones across Wales. I look forward to hearing more details about how these will work in the coming weeks.

It is important that the new zones in Wales are used to ensure that Welsh businesses have the same competitive advantages as those across the border in England.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues and the Welsh Assembly Government on the potential development of enterprise zones in Wales. [72263]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), has regular discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Treasury on various issues including enterprise zones.

She has also had continued discussions with the First Minister on this issue and recently wrote seeking confirmation on when a decision on the development of enterprise zones in Wales will be announced.

We were therefore pleased to see the announcement on 20 September by the Welsh Government setting out plans for five sector-based enterprise zones across Wales. I look forward to hearing more details about how these will work in the coming weeks.

It is important that the new zones in Wales are used to ensure that Welsh businesses have the same competitive advantages as those across the border in England.

PRIME MINISTER

Anti-slavery Day

Andrew Selous: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to mark Anti-slavery Day. [72191]

The Prime Minister: The Government are fully committed to combating human trafficking by tackling organised crime groups and protecting the victims of this modern day slavery. To mark Anti-slavery Day I will be hosting a reception at 10 Downing street for individuals and organisations who are involved in work to combat human slavery and trafficking.

EU Budget: Contributions

Jim Shannon: To ask the Prime Minister for what reason the EU Commission has requested additional monies for EU membership from the UK; and whether the Government are obliged to comply with the request. [72070]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The European Commission has made no such request for additional contributions to the EU Budget from the UK.

The UK's contributions to the EU Budget take place under obligations imposed by the treaties. The European Communities Act 1972, and section 2 in particular, gives effect within the UK to Community law.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations her Department has made to *(a)* East Riding of Yorkshire council and *(b)* the Planning Inspectorate on the planning application of B&K Universal to construct an expanded new beagle breeding facility; and if she will assess the compliance with the provisions of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, of the provision in the application for access to outside space by the dogs in the facility. [72756]

Lynne Featherstone: I have made no representations to East Riding of Yorkshire council or the Planning Inspectorate on the planning application of B&K Universal to construct an expanded new beagle breeding facility and have no plans to do so.

Under section 7 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, places where animals specified in schedule 2 to the Act are bred for use in regulated procedures, or are kept for supply for use in such procedures or to other designated sources, must be designated as breeding and/or supplying establishments. Applications for designation are considered on a case-by-case basis according to their merits. It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual applications.

Mandatory standards of housing and care of animals set out in Annex III to European Directive 2010/63/EU must be implemented from 1 January 2017.

Asylum

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to allow asylum seekers who have been *(a)* waiting for more than six months for their cases to be concluded and *(b)* refused asylum but temporarily cannot be returned home to be given permission to work until their cases are resolved; and if she will make a statement. [70651]

Damian Green: Currently, asylum seekers can apply for permission to work if they have not received an initial decision on their claim within 12 months. This is in line with the requirements of the European Union (EU) directive on the reception of asylum seekers. The Government have no plans to reduce this time period to six months, nor to extend access to the labour market to all asylum seekers who have been refused asylum, but who face a temporary barrier to their return. Extending the permission to work policy in this way risks abuse of the asylum system by economic migrants and detracts from the aim of encouraging those whose claim has failed to return home voluntarily. Our focus, through the Asylum Improvement Project, is on implementing new ways to speed up the processing of applications, while also improving the quality of decision making. Overall, performance has improved in the last year. In particular, we are making decisions more quickly—consistently deciding over 50% of asylum cases within 30 days—without sacrificing quality.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases remain to be dealt with by the UK Border Agency (UKBA); how many of these relate to people living in Leeds Central constituency; and when the UKBA expects all legacy cases to be cleared. [71071]

Damian Green: As reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee, the UK Border Agency completed its review of all cases in the legacy cohort at the end of March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme and the majority (455,000) had been fully concluded. The agency has also issued 3,000 grants which are subject to information from the applicant in order to complete a final security check.

The agency is now actively managing around 18,000 cases which have been caseworked to the furthest possible point but barriers to their removal remain, such as ongoing litigation, impending prosecution, incomplete legal or criminal proceedings, non-compliance or because they are from difficult to remove countries. These cases are being actively caseworked and will be concluded when those barriers have been lifted.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of training a new asylum casework team to deal with legacy cases which were not concluded by the previous legacy team. [72823]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has advised that the staff allocated to the Case Assurance and Audit Unit previously worked in the Case Resolution Directorate. The staff are fully versed in all aspects of asylum casework. Training costs will therefore be nil.

Asylum: Translation Services

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on translation services for asylum seekers in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency in each of the last five years. [72079]

Damian Green: It is not possible to answer the question in the form in which it has been put because the UK Border Agency does not record expenditure by parliamentary constituency. Disaggregating the data in order to provide the information would incur disproportionate cost.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make provision to enable police forces to provide assistance and support to families of British nationals murdered overseas. [70128]

Nick Herbert: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers support to families and friends of British nationals who die overseas and will assign a caseworker with knowledge of the country concerned. Where a death has occurred in suspicious circumstances, which may lead to legal proceedings overseas, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will keep the family informed of developments and offer guidance. Since November 2010 the FCO has been working in partnership with the charity Victim Support (which runs the national homicide service) to ensure that families living in England and Wales get the practical support that they need to deal with the added trauma, complications and costs when a British national is murdered abroad.

When a crime, for example a homicide, is committed in another country, the investigation would be the responsibility of the police and judicial authorities in the country where the offence occurred, who will investigate according to their own laws, standards and practices. In most cases, British police have no jurisdiction outside the UK.

It is possible that a local UK police force will appoint a Family Liaison Officer (FLO) to liaise with the family. However, a FLO will not be deployed in all cases where a British national has died abroad and will only generally be deployed if there is an investigative role for them to perform, for example if the foreign police service is specifically asking for inquiries to be made in the UK. Guidance on the role and criteria for deployment of a FLO is issued to police forces by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) within appendix 3 of the Family Liaison Officer Guidance 2008.

CCTV

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to ensure that CCTV systems installed by bus operators use a technical format compatible with use by the police for the purposes of legal proceedings. [70032]

James Brokenshire: There is no single industry standard for digital CCTV format, and this can complicate the recovery by the police of images from other operators' CCTV systems. To improve the effectiveness of all CCTV systems, and to ensure these systems command the confidence of the communities they serve, we have introduced provisions in the Protections of Freedoms Bill for a surveillance camera system code of practice.

Civil Disorder

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the *(a)* cost to each police authority and *(b)* total cost of the August 2011 public disorder. [71066]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* There is no estimate yet for the total cost. It is too early to know the final cost of the policing operations and claims made under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 following the recent public disorder.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been charged in connection with the public disorder of August 2011. [71324]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people charged who were dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data

As the publications note, the Ministry of Justice chief statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. A more detailed release was published on 15 September, which contained detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given and previous criminal history.

Civil Disorder: Greater London

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many residents of the London borough of Southwark have been charged with offences related to the disturbances in August 2011; [71514]

(2) what the age was of the oldest resident of the London borough of Southwark charged with an offence related to the disturbances in August 2011; [71515]

(3) what the age was of the youngest resident of the London borough of Southwark charged with an offence related to the disturbances in August 2011; [71516]

(4) what the average age was of residents of the London borough of Southwark charged with an offence related to the disturbances in August 2011; [71517]

(5) what offences related to the disturbances in August 2011 residents of the London borough of Southwark have been charged with; [71518]

(6) what proportion of London borough of Southwark residents charged with an offence related to the disturbances in August 2011 are under 25 years old. [71519]

James Brokenshire: The Ministry of Justice published statistics on 15 September on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the August disturbances. A bulletin, titled "Statistical bulletin on the public disorder of 6th to 9th August 2011" can be found at the following link. The data are provided for London as a whole in table 11, but are not broken down by London borough.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11.htm

Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice or the Home Office.

Civil Disorder: Petrol

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received of police officers instructing petrol filling stations not to sell fuel in cans during the public disorder in August 2011; in which police force areas such instructions were issued; and whether she will issue guidance to chief police constables on the sale of fuel in cans during any future public disorder. [71579]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has received no such reports. Police instructions on the sale of fuel during public disorder are an operational matter for chief police officers.

Counter-terrorism

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Section 11.34 of the Prevent Strategy, Cm 8092, what progress her Department has made on working with other Government Departments to establish whether Prevent work can be integrated into their core activities. [72331]

James Brokenshire: Good progress has been made in working with other Government Departments to mainstream Prevent into their core business.

Each Government Department with a Prevent interest is developing a programme plan to take forward its work on this issue and reports to the Home Office's Office for Security and Counter Terrorism, in accordance with the governance arrangements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

Counter-terrorism: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish audit documents and records relating to the assessment of applications for Prevent funding. [72294]

James Brokenshire: We shall publish annual reports on the progress of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. These will include information on the delivery of the Prevent strand of CONTEST. The content and format of the reports has yet to be decided.

Crime

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* knife crime, *(b)* gun crime and *(c)* street robbery incidents were recorded in (i) Coventry and (ii) Warwickshire in each of the last five years. [70343]

Nick Herbert: Data on knife and sharp instrument offences have been collected by the Home Office via a special additional data collection since April 2007. Data are therefore available only for the last four years.

Data are not comparable across this time period. In 2007-08, the offences covered by the special knife crime collection were: attempted murder, GBH and robbery. These data are presented in table A. In 2008-09, the collection was expanded to include threats to kill, ABH, rape and sexual assaults, therefore data for 2007-08 are not comparable with those for later years. Data from 2008-09 onwards are presented in table B.

Furthermore, data for West Midlands police are not comparable for 2010-11 against earlier years due to changes in their recording of these offences.

Prior to 2010-11, for technical reasons, the West Midlands data return included offences using unbroken bottles and glass, which are outside the scope of the collection. From 2010-11, West Midlands have excluded these offences and data are therefore not comparable with earlier years.

Figures for homicides involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument are presented separately as they are taken from the Homicide Index. These are also available only at police force level. The 2005-06 to 2009-10 homicide data for West Midlands and Warwickshire are shown in Table C. The 2010-11 data will be published in January 2012.

Data on firearm offences are also only available at police force level. The 2005-06 to 2009-10 firearms data for West Midlands and Warwickshire are shown in Table D. The 2010-11 data for police recorded firearm offences will be published in January 2012.

Data on robbery offences are available at local authority level as well as police force level. It is not possible to identify the location of the offence from data held centrally, so data provided are for all robbery offences, not only those committed in the street. Data covering the period from 2006-07 to 2010-11 for Coventry local authority area are presented in table E and West Midlands police force area are shown in table F.

Table A: Total number of offences recorded involving a knife or a sharp instrument in West Midlands and Warwickshire police force areas, 2007-08[1]

		Number of offences
Financial year	*West Midlands*[2]	*Warwickshire*
2007-08	2,648	160

Table B: Total number of offences recorded involving a knife or a sharp instrument in West Midlands and Warwickshire police force areas, 2008-09 to 2010-11[1]

		Number of offences
Financial year	*West Midlands*[2]	*Warwickshire*
2008-09	3,682	223
2009-10	3,216	157
2010-11	2,998	162

[1] Police recorded knife, and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.

[2] West Midlands included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns until April 2010 but now exclude these offences in line with other forces. As such, their 2010-11 data are not comparable with their data for earlier years.

Table C: Total number of homicides involving a knife or a sharp instrument in West Midlands and Warwickshire police force areas, 2005-05 to 2009-10[1]

		Number of offences
Financial year	*West Midlands*	*Warwickshire*
2005-06	22	1
2006-07	15	5
2007-08	15	2
2008-09	24	1
2009-10	9	1

[1] As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Table D: Total firearm offences (excluding air weapons) recorded in West Midlands and Warwickshire police force areas, 2005-06 to 2009-10

		Number of offences
Financial year	*West Midlands*	*Warwickshire*
2005-06	946	80
2006-07	979	90
2007-08	974	107
2008-09	985	56
2009-10	903	57

Table E: Total police recorded robbery offences recorded in Coventry local authority, 2006-07 to 2010-11

	Number of offences
Financial year	*Coventry*
2006-07	843
2007-08	646
2008-09	699
2009-10	616
2010-11	816

Table F: Total police recorded robbery offences recorded in Warwickshire police force area, 2006-07 to 2010-11

	Number of offences
Financial year	*Warwickshire*
2006-07	488
2007-08	375
2008-09	334
2009-10	280
2010-11	298

Criminal Records

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress the Independent Advisory Panel for the Disclosure of Criminal Records has made in its work. [71924]

Lynne Featherstone: The Independent Advisory Panel for the Disclosure of Criminal Records (IAPDCR) was formed on 13 September 2010 following recommendations made by Mrs Sunita Mason, the Government's Independent Advisor for Criminality Information Management, in her report "A Balanced Approach" published in March 2010.

The panel is chaired by Mrs Mason and is attended by experts from a range of backgrounds including the third sector, legal professionals, the Information Commissioners' Office and police.

Since September 2010 the IAPDCR has met regularly to discuss:

whether filtering arrangements should be applied as part of the process to disclose information relating to convictions, cautions etc ("central records") under the provisions of the Police Act 1997;

how such arrangements might be structured to improve the proportionality between civil liberties and the impact on public protection; and

how such arrangements might operate alongside other existing legislation, especially the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Mrs Mason is currently in the process of consolidating the opinions of panel members with a view to providing advice to Ministers by the end of October 2011.

Dangerous Dogs

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish each police authority's enforcement costs in respect of the kennelling of dogs held under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. [71662]

Nick Herbert: While the Government provide core police funding, spending decisions are made locally by the chief constables and police authorities. Data on each police authority's expenditure, including enforcement costs of the kennelling of dogs held under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, are therefore not collected centrally.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dog legislation officers were employed by each police authority in each of the last five years; and how many such officers each authority expects to employ in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [71663]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which travel management companies her Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72692]

Damian Green: The Home Department, including its executive agencies, uses Carlson Wagonlit for the purchase of airline tickets.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes her Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72706]

Damian Green: The Home Department's travel management company, Carlson Wagonlit (CWT), is contractually obligated to constantly source and where possible negotiate improved deals, fares and rates on behalf of the Department. The Department and CWT work collaboratively, as part of a cross-Government programme, to identify routes frequently flown by officials. This assists CWT to negotiate further discounts on these routes. The Department's policy on air travel is underpinned by an objective of achieving best value. The policy is rigorously enforced through effective use of management information which identifies both frequency of travel and type of airline ticket purchased.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the resource budget allocation was for the office of her Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72479]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office chief scientific adviser is supported by the science secretariat, which, in addition to supporting the chief scientific adviser, also supports the Department's independent science advisory committees; it is not possible to separate these costs. The total resource costs for each of the last five years are shown in the following table. The figures fluctuate as the Home Office science has restructured to bring the advisory committees under the management of the chief scientific adviser.

Total admin resource budget[1]

	£000
2007-08	1,023
2008-09	776
2009-10	936
2010-11	840
2011-12	870

[1] Costs include all pay costs including those of the chief scientific adviser and the science secretariat and the cost of running the science advisory committees.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary, including benefits, was of her Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72480]

James Brokenshire: Paul Wiles was appointed the Home Office chief scientific adviser in September 2004 and was succeeded in the post by Professor Bernard Silverman in April 2010.

The available information on salary costs and benefits of the Home Office chief scientific adviser were released for 2010 as part of the plans to increase transparency across Government. The available information is shown in the following table.

Name	*Annual pay rate including taxable benefits and allowances*
Paul Wiles (March 2010)	£155,000 to £159,999
Bernard Silverman (from April 2010)	£120,000 to £124,999

Salary figures for senior civil servants are not released prior to 2010.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of her Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72481]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office chief scientific adviser is supported by the science secretariat, which, in addition to supporting the chief scientific adviser, also supports the Department's independent science advisory committees. The full-time equivalent (FTE) staff numbers for each of the last five years are in the table.

The figures fluctuate as the Home Office science has restructured to bring the advisory committees under the management of the chief scientific adviser. Currently approximately 3.5 FTEs in the science secretariat directly support the chief scientific adviser; the remainder support the advisory committees. The office to support the Home Office chief scientific adviser was created in September 2004.

	Number of staff (FTEs)
2007-08	13
2008-09	13
2009-10	13
2010-11	10.4
2011-12	12.4

Note:
Includes secretarial support.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on requiring her Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72482]

James Brokenshire: My Department is committed to handling science and engineering advice in accordance with the Government chief scientific adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making". The Scientific Advisory Committees that advise the Department operate in line with the "Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees" and the "Principles for Scientific Advice to Government".

The Home Office Standard Research Contract has a condition that refers to research ethics and this states that

> "The Service Provider shall conduct the Project in accordance with the standards and codes of practice accepted by the social research profession."

There are further generic terms and conditions that state that the contractor will deliver to time, specification and with reasonable care and due diligence.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by her Department in 2010-11; what guidance her Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if she will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by her Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72570]

Damian Green: The Home Department procures legal advice as a service rather than at an hourly rate, as such we do not capture hours completed by *(a)* solicitors or *(b)* barristers engaged in 2010-11.

The Department uses a number of different guidance documents in commissioning external legal advice. These include the Attorney-General's Guidelines on the Use of the Private Sector for Government Legal Work; the Government Legal Service Best Practice; and the Government Legal Services Procurement Protocol 2009.

The Home Department publishes payments of over £25,000 to suppliers, as part of Government's Transparency policy. The following table provides (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister firms engaged by the Department in 2010-11 where the payments have been over £25,000 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. The table includes payments of over £25,000 to self-employed solicitors and barristers engaged by the Department in 2010-11. The table does not include payments of under £25,000 to solicitors and barristers made by the Department in 2010-11 as this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	£
Pinsent Masons	5,039,865
Cripps Harries Hall	3,061,896
Kingsley Napley	863,705
Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP	751,551
Winkworth Sherwood	378,533
Hartnell Taylor Cook LLP	253,039
Eversheds Cambridgeshire	211,375
Fairfax Solicitors	174,453
Merrill Legal Solutions	109,997
EC Harris LLP	99,617
Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP	97,770
Blake Lapthorn Tarlo Lyons	71,891
Essex Court Chambers	65,008
Law Absolute	59,570
Woodward Lewis Ltd	47,000
G2 Legal	46,831
Morton Fraser	45,588
Savills (L&P) Ltd	44,652
Michael Douglas	43,830
Benedict Mackenzie LLP	43,346
Morrison and Foerster (UK) LLP	42,469
Lexisnexis Butterworths	40,933
Dame Nuala O'Loan	37,241
Addleshaw Goddard	36,654
Walker Morris	36,229
James Eadie	35,392
Argent Chambers	34,891
Lord Carlile of Berriew QC	31,324
Jane Sarah Gordon	30,693

Sick Leave

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department are on long-term sick leave. [71933]

Damian Green: As at 31 August 2011, 635 employees were recorded as being on long-term sick leave, which is 2% of the civil servants working in the Department on that date. We have used the Cabinet Office definition of long-term sickness absence, which is a sickness absence that continues for more than 21 working days or 29 calendar days.

Deportation

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to establish an independent body to monitor all enforced removals from the UK. [72275]

Damian Green: There are no plans to establish an independent body to monitor all enforced removals from the UK.

All detention and escorting services provided by private sector companies are subject to internal and external oversight. Staff are vetted carefully by the Home Office as part of their accreditation to work as detention custody officers or escorts, undergoing thorough security checks and extensive training before they are certified.

Escorting services are subject to scrutiny by not only a team of UK Border Agency contract monitors, but also a programme of unannounced inspections by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons and specifically, at Heathrow airport, an independent monitoring board. Both of these bodies publish their reports on their websites.

Deportation: Cameroon

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been removed to Cameroon in each of the last three years. [72582]

Damian Green: 142 people, including dependants, were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK to Cameroon in 2008; 141 in 2009; and 109 in 2010. The figure for 2010 is provisional and subject to change.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. The information provided has been published in the Immigration Statistics: April-June 2011 release, which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Deportation: Suicide

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of attempted suicides by *(a)* adults and *(b)* children awaiting deportation in 2011 to date. [72293]

Damian Green: I have assumed that the question relates to persons being held by the UK Border Agency pending removal or deportation. The data provided do not therefore include persons in the community who will be removed from the country in the future.

The UK Border Agency keeps records of the number of incidents across its detention estate of self-harm where a person required some form of medical attention. Such attention may involve an examination by a nurse, or in more serious cases, treatment at a hospital. The data do not break down to show the type of treatment required, nor whether they were as a result of suicide attempts, given it is not always clear whether a person intended to take the more serious step of taking their own life.

There were 119 incidents of self-harm across the Agency's immigration removal centres which required medical attention between 1 January and 31 August 2011.

The figure above does not include foreign national prisoners who will be deported at the end of their sentence or detainees being held in prisons or those held in the Agency's short-term holding facilities.

Children are only now held in very limited circumstances and for short periods, primarily when they have been intercepted at the border with their family or where they are being returned under the ensured return route. There have been no recorded instances in the same period where children being held attempted to harm themselves.

The safety of those in the care of the UK Border Agency is taken very seriously, and there are well established systems and policies entitled Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) to identify and support those who are at risk of suicide or self harm.

The data provided are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. It is provisional and subject to change.

Detention Centres: Police

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the police have been called to the immigration removal centre at *(a)* Brook House, *(b)* Campsfield, *(c)* Colnbrook, *(d)* Dover, *(e)* Dungavel, *(f)* Harmondsworth, *(g)* Haslar, *(h)* Lindholme, *(i)* Morton Hall, *(j)* Tinsley House and *(k)* Yarl's Wood in each of the last five years. [71914]

Damian Green: There is no requirement on immigration removal centres to centrally collate the data requested. An accurate response could be provided only by examination of individual security records at each centre at disproportionate cost.

The police might be called to a centre for a variety of different reasons, including where an offence may have been committed or to assist with managing incidents such as a death, an escape or a protest.

Domestic Violence

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 653W, on domestic violence, when she expects to take a final decision on signature and ratification of the Council of Europe convention on preventing violence against women and domestic violence. [72333]

Lynne Featherstone: We continue to be supportive of the work of the Council of Europe in raising awareness of violence against women and girls and supported the efforts to agree a strong convention, but we are not yet in a position to make the final decision on signature and ratification. We are reviewing whether the requirements of the convention are best placed to support our existing work to tackle violence against women and girls and domestic violence in the UK.

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures are in place to monitor the level of service delivery by GEO Ltd in managing Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre; [70258]

(2) what recent representations she has received on the awarding of the contact to run Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre to GEO Ltd; and if she will make a statement. [70259]

Damian Green: All immigration removal centres operated by the private sector, including Dungavel, have their contracts managed by a central commercial team. The UK Border Agency has a team of staff based in each centre to monitor day to day contract delivery and compliance. Meetings take place with the centre manager at an operational level on a weekly basis and on a commercial level on a quarterly basis.

Very recently, a letter addressed to the Secretary of State for the Home Department has been received about the GEO Group's overseas operations. A reply is being prepared.

Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of Tier 2 intra company transfer visas that were issued for the 12 months to 1 September 2011. [71917]

Damian Green: 29,392 Tier 2 intra company transfer visas were issued in the period July 2010 to June 2011.

The figures include the following endorsements for main applicants only.

Tier 2 (ICT) graduate trainee
Tier 2 (ICT) skills transfer
Tier 2 (ICT) migrant
Tier 2 (ICT) long-term staff migrant
Tier 2 (ICT) Established Staff
Tier 2 (ICT) short-term staff migrant

The data is based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to provide a transitional period to educational and language service providers to comply with new accreditation requirements. [72580]

Damian Green: The Government have adopted a phased approach to the implementation of the new educational oversight requirements. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, announced the new arrangements in Parliament on 22 March. On 31 March a Statement of Intent was published setting out the changes and implementation timetable in more detail.

On 13 June the Government announced that educational oversight of private sector providers would largely be carried out by the Quality Assurance Agency and the Independent Schools Inspectorate. The deadline for applications to these bodies was 9 September. All sponsors must have been satisfactorily inspected or reviewed by one of the approved review bodies by December 2012.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the International Passenger Survey in measuring the number of student migrants in the UK. [71190]

Damian Green: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the International Passenger Survey to measure the number of student migrants in the UK (71190).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses the International Passenger Survey (IPS) to estimate flows of international migrants into and out of the United Kingdom. The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by ONS. It covers the principal air, sea and Channel Tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.

The IPS provides a good measure of the numbers of students arriving into the UK for formal study. Our latest provisional figures for the year ending Dec 2010 show that 228,000 migrants arrived to the UK for formal study. This estimate has a standard error percentage of 3 per cent, which is considered to be a reliable estimate.

The current IPS questionnaire is not adequate for accurately identifying emigrants who originally migrated to the UK for study. The IPS records a passenger's main reason for migrating. Therefore a passenger's main reason for emigrating from the UK may bear no resemblance to the person's main activity while they have been resident in the UK. For example, a person who has been studying in the UK may be emigrating to work abroad. This means that it is currently not possible to derive a net student migration figure.

ONS have addressed these limitations by developing a number of changes to the IPS, which will be effective from January 2012. These changes will identify emigrants who have been studying in the UK and thus will enable a net student migration figure to be estimated from the first quarter of 2012.

EU Nationals: Sentencing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals resident in the UK given a custodial sentence of more than two years were removed from UK jurisdiction at the conclusion of their sentences in each year since 2004; and if she will make a statement. [71695]

Damian Green *[holding answer 14 September 2011]:* The following table sets out the number of EEA nationals given a custodial sentence of more than two years who were removed from the UK in each year since 2006. Data prior to 2006 are not available.

EEA nationals given a custodial sentence of more than two years who were removed from the UK

	Number
2006	246
2007	404
2008	411
2009	389
2010	421

Extremist Groups: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to alter the criteria for her Department's funding of organisations in order to prevent the funding of extremist groups. [70410]

James Brokenshire: The new Prevent strategy is clear: if organisations do not support the values of democracy, human rights, equality before the law and participation in society, then we will not fund them. The following guidelines have been developed to ensure that organisations funded by central Government are working in the public interest:

1. The screening of organisations and individuals that apply for funding; to verify that they subscribe to our shared British values, are not extremist, do not support extremism and do not employ extremists;

2. Systematic monitoring, based on first-hand knowledge of organisations and individuals awarded funding, to ensure that initial favourable assessments remain valid; and

3. The capability to take prompt action to suspend or cease funding if concerns arise about any funded organisation or individual.

Forensic Science

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish her Department's analysis of the ability of private sector forensic science providers to undertake work currently performed by the Forensic Science Service. [68640]

James Brokenshire: The Association of Chief Police Officers have been clear that the forensics market can cope with the managed wind-down of the Forensic Science Service. The capacity and ramp up plans of forensic service providers is commercially sensitive information that would be of value to their competitors. As such we have no plans to release any information of this nature at present.

Forensic Science: Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to promote innovation in the forensic science market through public procurement. [72414]

James Brokenshire: All police forces in England and Wales procure their forensic services through either the National Forensic Framework Agreement (NFFA), managed and supported by the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA), or as part of the North West, South West and Wales Forensic Contract. Both of these frameworks contain a requirement for forensic service providers to undertake research and development.

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what ways she expects the UK Border Agency to contribute to *(a)* reducing the number of and *(b)* identifying victims of human trafficking. [70779]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has a vital role to play in disrupting trafficking attempts abroad and detecting trafficking both at the border and within the UK. Border staff are trained in child protection issues and to spot human trafficking; multi-agency child safeguarding and investigation teams are in place at the UK's major ports; overseas border controls stop criminals and illegal immigrants before they get to the UK; people's identities are fixed using biometrics; and alerts and intelligence tools are used to give officers the information they need to intervene. The UK Border Agency also supports the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in pursuing organised criminals involved in trafficking.

The UK Border Agency is one of the key agencies involved in the national referral mechanism (NRM), the UK's framework for identifying and supporting trafficking victims. Together with other front line agencies such as the police, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations, the NRM shares information and expertise that can be used to confirm victim status and ensure appropriate care is provided.

Further details of the UK Border Agency's contribution can be found in the Government's strategy on human trafficking, published on 19 July 2011, available at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/human-trafficking-strategy

Humberside Police: Olympic Games 2012

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers will be deployed from the Humberside police outside the Humberside area to assist in operations connected with the 2012 Olympic games; for how long they will be so deployed; and who will meet the cost of that deployment. [71303]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 September 2011]:* While detailed planning continues and the final resource requirements will not be confirmed until early 2012, it is anticipated that a small number of Olympic venue forces, including Dorset, Surrey and the Metropolitan Police Service are likely to require a level of additional support in the form of officers supplied under mutual aid arrangements.

Requests for mutual aid will be co-ordinated through the Association of Chief Police Officers, Police National Information and Co-ordination Centre (ACPO PNICC). This is the standard mechanism through which the police service manages all such movements of officers to support major events. It is expected that all non-venue forces across the UK, including Humberside police, will be asked to supply resources to the national operation and PNICC will ensure that resource requests are proportionate to the relative size and capacity of the providing force.

The Home Office will reimburse donor forces in accordance with the policy prevailing at the time, which will allow them to back fill for officers supplied to support, thereby mitigating any potential impact on local service delivery. I understand that the four forces in the Yorkshire and Humber region are looking at the feasibility of responding to these mutual aid requests in a collaborative manner, though this is a matter for the chief officers and police authorities concerned.

Identity and Passport Service: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress the Identity and Passport Service has made on mobile interview teams in Wales. [72197]

Damian Green: Flexible working teams began offering customer interview appointments from new premises in Wrexham on 2 August and in Aberystwyth on 31 August. We are also planning for flexible working teams to offer appointments from new premises in Swansea from early October. Customer interview appointments are also offered in our Newport office as well as through video interview services hosted by local authority sites in Caernarfon, Newtown and Haverfordwest.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses had been issued with penalties for employing illegal immigrants in the 12 month period to 1 September 2011 and each of the previous five 12 month periods. [71915]

Damian Green: A total of 6,346 businesses have been served with a civil penalty for illegally employing migrant workers since the start of the regime on 29 February 2008.

The following table shows the number of businesses that have been served with a penalty under section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, in each year to 1 September 2011

	Number of businesses served with penalties
29 February 2008 to 1 September 2008	616
2 September 2008 to 1 September 2009	1,962
2 September 2009 to 1 September 2010	2,283
2 September 2010 to 1 September 2011	1,485
Total	6,346

Note:

Any data provided within this written answer is sourced from internal databases. The Civil Penalty database utilised by the Civil Penalty Compliance Team (CPCT) is a management information tool and data from it is not quality assured under National Statistics protocols and is subject to change due to internal data quality checking.

Immigrants: Detainees

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the average cost per night of holding a detainee awaiting removal at *(a)* Brook House, *(b)* Campsfield, *(c)* Colnbrook, *(d)* Dover, *(e)* Dungavel, *(f)* Harmondsworth, *(g)* Haslar, *(h)* Lindholme, *(i)* Morton Hall, *(j)* Tinsley House and *(k)* Yarl's Wood. [72276]

Damian Green: We do not distinguish our detention costs between those held for removal from the UK and those held for further examination for entry into UK. To do so would require an examination of every person detained over the last 12 months which would be at a disproportionate cost.

The average cost of holding a person per night in a detention centre is currently £102.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were detained as adults under immigration powers but were later found to be children under 18 in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [72548]

Damian Green: In May 2010, the Government announced a review into the ending of the detention of children in the UK for immigration purposes and announced the conclusions in December 2010. We are now publishing an unprecedented amount of information on detention both in relation to adults but also data on children entering detention. This can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2011/

We are unable to provide the complete dataset for the period requested. However, the agency does produce management information on the number of asylum age dispute cases in detention and these are released quarterly to selected corporate partners. These figures are provided in the following table:

Period	*Number of individuals detained as adults but later released due to doubts over their age*
2009-10	
Quarter 3 (October to December)	3
Quarter 4 (January to March)	6
2010-11	
Quarter 1 (April to June)	3
Quarter 2 (July to September)	0
Quarter 3 (October to December)	7
Quarter 4 (January to March)	5

These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were detained as adults under the detained fast track procedure but were later found to be children under 18 in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [72549]

Damian Green: Detailed records of age dispute cases within the detained fast track processes have been kept since July 2009.

In 2009-10 three asylum applicants were released and later assessed as being under the age of 18.

In 2010-11 no asylum applicants were released and later assessed as being under the age of 18.

The figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics.

Immigration Controls

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were refused entry to the UK at airports *(a)* in the year to 1 September 2011 and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [72737]

Damian Green: The following table shows the total numbers of non-asylum passengers initially refused entry to the UK together with the numbers of those who were refused entry at airports, in each of the last five calendar years. The data for 2010 are provisional and subject to change.

Non-asylum passengers initially refused entry to the UK

	Total	*Of these, refused at airports*
2006	29,946	22,516
2007	28,140	21,724
2008	26,589	20,733
2009	22,522	17,175
2010	18,941	14,255

These figures exclude any cases where the person claims asylum at the border, and although could be technically refused entry, is ultimately granted temporary admission while a decision is made on their asylum claim.

Information on those refused entry at airports on 1 September 2011 is a subset of data which are due for publication in the Immigration Statistics: July-September 2011 release on 24 November 2011 as part of the regular Home Office publication scheme and is not yet available.

The Home Office publishes National Statistics on the number of non-asylum passengers refused entry to the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

A copy of the Immigration Statistics: July-September 2011 release will be available from the Library of the House and the aforementioned website from 24 November 2011.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the ability of firms to attract highly skilled workers following the implementation of the immigration cap. [72824]

Damian Green: Employers continue to be able to recruit the brightest and best foreign workers. After five months, over 6,000 spare places have been carried forward, meaning that the limit is currently around 50% undersubscribed and has not prevented any firm from recruiting a skilled migrant worker.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to bring forward legislation in respect of vehicle clamping companies; and if she will make a statement. [72289]

Lynne Featherstone: Clause 54 of the Protection of Freedoms Bill will make it an offence to immobilise, move or restrict the movement of a vehicle without lawful authority. In effect this will ban most clamping and towing by anyone other than the police, local authorities, bailiffs and other Government agencies. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Bill is expected to be enacted by May 2012. Our aim is to bring the ban on wheel clamping into force as soon as possible following Royal Assent.

Marriage of Convenience

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been removed as a result of involvement in a sham marriage since May 2010. [70579]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: The UK Border Agency does not record specific data on those people removed following a sham marriage.

The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of individual case files.

We are therefore unable to answer the PQ as tabled.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Policing plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Maldon of *(a)* 9 April 2011 and *(b)* 30 November 2010 on behalf of Mr Stephen Jennings. [72111]

Nick Herbert: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 28 April 2011.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 9 August 2011 with regard to Mr S. Ullah. [72619]

Damian Green: A reply to the right hon. Gentlemen's letter was sent on 15 September 2011.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 9 August 2011 with regard to Mr R. Farrukh. [72620]

Damian Green: A reply to the right hon. Gentlemen's letter was sent on 14 September 2011.

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 11 May 2011 from the right hon. Member for Exeter, ref: C/Ind/WALL01006. [69741]

Nick Herbert: A reply was sent on 22 August 2011.

Vehicles: Theft

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* construction vehicles, *(b)* agricultural vehicles, *(c)* cars, *(d)* motorcycles and *(e)* commercial vehicles were stolen in the latest period for which figures are available. [72551]

James Brokenshire: The police recorded 99,277 offences of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle and 6,951 offences of aggravated vehicle taking in England and Wales in 2010-11 but the separate breakdowns requested are not centrally available.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what police resources were allocated to vehicle crime prevention in respect of *(a)* construction vehicles, *(b)* agricultural vehicles, *(c)* cars, *(d)* motorcycles and *(e)* commercial vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available. [72552]

James Brokenshire: The allocation of police resources to tackle vehicle crime is a matter for the relevant chief officer of each police force. This information is not collated centrally by the Home Office.

Motorcycles: Theft

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the motorcycle industry on steps to reduce the number of motorcycle thefts. [72550]

James Brokenshire: Home Office Ministers have not met the motorcycle industry, but I am aware that there are ongoing discussions between the Metropolitan Police Service and the industry on how best to tackle motorcycle theft.

Paedophilia

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources her Department has allocated to pursuing those involved in institutional paedophilia rings. [72589]

James Brokenshire: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) leads nationally on tackling those who seek to abuse children. The Home Office has allocated £6.38 million to CEOP for 2011-12. CEOP receives additional financial support and support in kind from its partners in the private and voluntary sectors. Police forces throughout the country also have officers dedicated to child protection.

Police: Accountability

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer by the Prime Minister of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 350, if she will publish a breakdown of the estimated additional cost to the public purse of holding elections for police commissioners in November 2012. [71935]

Nick Herbert: The additional cost of deferring the Police and Crime Commissioner elections from May to November 2012 is £25 million. This will not come from police budgets.

Police: Manpower

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of police *(a)* sergeants and *(b)* constables employed in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2011 by pay band. [71482]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 September 2011]:* The available information shows the number of police sergeants and police constables that were employed in 2007, 2009 and 2011 and the top and bottom points on the pay scale for each rank. This information is shown in the following table:

Number of police sergeants and police constables employed in 2007, 2009 and 2011 by pay scale[1, 2, 3]

	Police sergeants			Police constables		
31 March each year	*Number of police sergeants*[4]	*Top of the pay scale (£)*	*Bottom of the pay scale (£)*	*Number of police constables*[4]	*Top of the pay scale (£)*	*Bottom of the pay scale (£)*
2007	21,949	37,071	32,985	109,400	32,985	21,009
2009	22,664	39,006	34,707	110,080	34,707	22,104
2011	22,265	41,040	36,519	106,609	36,519	23,259

[1] The figures for the pay scale for 2007 are from 1 September 2006.

[2] The figures for the pay scale for 2009 are from 1 September 2008.

[3] The figures for the pay scale for 2011 are from September 2010 (current rates).

[4] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. These figures are as at 31 March.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what information her Department holds on the number of police inspectors employed at each pay band in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2011; [71619]

(2) what information her Department holds on the number of police chief inspectors employed at each pay band in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2011. [71622]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* Available data show the number of police inspectors and chief inspectors employed in England and Wales, their salaries by top and bottom points on the pay scale in England and Wales and London for 2007, 2009 and 2011.

The information is given in the following table.

Number of police inspectors and chief inspectors employed, England and Wales, and salaries for England and Wales and London, 2007, 2009 and 2011 by pay scale[1,2,3]

	Police inspectors			Police chief inspectors		
As at 31 March:	*Number of police inspectors*[4]	*Top of the pay scale (£)*[5]	*Bottom of the pay scale(£)*[5]	*Number of police inspectors*[4]	*Top of the pay scale (£)*[5]	*Bottom of the pay scale(£)*[5]
2007	7,034	45,843 (47,709)	42,264 (44,118)	1,848	48,705 (50,568)	46,779 (48,645)
2009	7,398	48,234 (50,199)	44,469 (46,419)	1,916	51,246 (53,205)	49,221 (51,183)
2011	6,764	50,751 (52,818)	46,788 (48,840)	1,889	53,919 (55,980)	51,789 (53,853)

[1] Pay scale information for 2007 is as at 31 March 2007, reflecting salaries applicable from 1 September 2006.

[2] Pay scale information for 2009 is as at 31 March 2009, reflecting salaries applicable from 1 September 2008.

[3] Pay scale information for 2011 is as at 31 March 2011, reflecting salaries applicable from 1 September 2010. These are the current salaries.

[4] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[5] London salaries in brackets.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the average number of years of employment of *(a)* police constables, *(b)* sergeants, *(c)* inspectors and *(d)* chief inspectors at each pay band. [71621]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* The information is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects figures for numbers of currently serving officers by rank and length in service. However, length in service is grouped in a series of size-bands, some of which span five years (e.g. 10 to 15 years). Therefore, any calculation of current average length in service from these data would be approximate. Furthermore, these data are not collected by pay increment within each rank.

Police: Sick Leave

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on the number of days of staff sickness absence in police forces in England on average per employee in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [70584]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* Information is not centrally available on the number of days of staff sickness absence in police forces in England in 2009 and 2010. Figures are available on a financial year basis showing the contracted hours lost to sickness for police officers and police staff.

These are shown in the following tables for 2009-10 and 2010-11 for individual police forces in England. The contracted hours lost to sickness are broken down by sickness term, the number of hours available and the number of contracted hours lost to sickness as a proportion of the number of hours available.

The contracted hours lost to sickness, by sickness term, the number of hours available and the number of contracted hours lost to sickness as a proportion of the number of hours available for police officers and police staff, by police force area, 2009-10 and 2010-11[1]

2009-10

Police officers

	Contracted hours lost to sickness					
	Short-term	*Medium-term*	*Long-term*	*Total*	*Total contracted hours available*	*Hours lost to sickness as a proportion of hours available (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	74,335	48,351	117,568	240,253	5,810,900	4.1
Bedfordshire	24,880	19,298	43,939	88,117	2,427,313	3.6
Cambridgeshire	23,994	14,595	56,728	95,316	2,553,389	3.7
Cheshire	20,158	17,022	61,218	98,397	3,781,969	2.6
Cleveland	23,719	20,687	42,657	87,062	3,142,670	2.8
Cumbria	19,488	13,815	56,828	90,131	2,227,316	4.0
Derbyshire	28,974	24,917	78,603	132,494	3,705,100	3.6
Devon and Cornwall	67,907	62,379	131,020	261,306	6,294,756	4.2
Dorset	28,310	24,409	42,974	95,693	2,641,482	3.6
Durham	17,835	15,566	70,024	103,425	2,717,537	3.8
Dyfed-Powys	22,809	16,487	42,829	82,126	2,101,798	3.9
Essex	68,504	38,200	128,056	234,760	4,700,221	5.0
Gloucestershire	34,663	22,967	42,979	100,609	2,728,374	3.7
Greater Manchester	102,589	88,040	357,145	547,773	14,556,520	3.8
Gwent	23,988	24,960	57,956	106,905	2,436,147	4.4
Hampshire	28,352	19,688	72,672	120,712	4,996,566	2.4
Hertfordshire	38,462	34,501	64,893	137,857	3,777,734	3.6
Humberside	29,425	29,495	34,940	93,859	3,628,334	2.6
Kent	76,446	49,509	95,328	221,283	6,673,496	3.3
Lancashire	36,778	41,085	145,922	223,784	6,465,916	3.5
Leicestershire	25,266	23,022	58,148	106,436	4,123,573	2.6
Lincolnshire	12,859	12,877	93,667	119,403	1,583,556	7.5
London, City of	12,232	10,331	20,077	42,640	1,452,187	2.9
Merseyside	27,285	43,932	232,946	304,163	7,959,586	3.8
Metropolitan Police	347,610	364,950	1,054,779	1,767,339	58,681,889	3.0
Norfolk	27,205	22,040	53,510	102,755	2,929,071	3.5
Northamptonshire	29,809	20,154	24,131	74,093	2,351,684	3.2
Northumbria	36,004	42,350	171,495	249,849	7,311,471	3.4
North Wales	20,279	27,568	61,449	109,296	2,812,218	3.9
North Yorkshire	21,742	14,876	59,368	95,986	2,603,391	3.7
Nottinghamshire	36,626	25,941	97,870	160,437	4,284,099	3.7
South Wales	36,842	43,894	189,226	269,962	5,561,292	4.9

The contracted hours lost to sickness, by sickness term, the number of hours available and the number of contracted hours lost to sickness as a proportion of the number of hours available for police officers and police staff, by police force area, 2009-10 and 2010-11[1]

2009-10

Police officers

	Contracted hours lost to sickness					
	Short-term	*Medium-term*	*Long-term*	*Total*	*Total contracted hours available*	*Hours lost to sickness as a proportion of hours available (percentage)*
South Yorkshire	36,819	25,326	108,846	170,991	5,261,480	3.2
Staffordshire	47,318	36,131	92,693	176,142	3,877,160	4.5
Suffolk	11,539	9,176	38,184	58,899	2,258,212	2.6
Surrey	28,651	19,755	76,122	124,528	3,246,623	3.8
Sussex	54,650	48,662	102,950	206,261	5,835,432	3.5
Thames Valley	80,249	49,806	165,544	295,599	7,825,883	3.8
Warwickshire	18,917	15,143	60,849	94,909	1,743,068	5.4
West Mercia	51,841	35,928	85,827	173,596	4,261,299	4.1
West Midlands	100,998	118,911	275,574	495,483	15,726,636	3.2
West Yorkshire	86,050	98,106	167,231	351,388	10,102,018	3.5
Wiltshire	16,687	15,013	32,776	64,476	2,125,392	3.0

2009-10

Police staff

	Contracted hours lost to sickness					
	Short-term	*Medium-term*	*Long-term*	*Total*	*Total contracted hours available*	*Hours lost to sickness as a proportion of hours available (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	74,689	42,495	101,740	218,924	4,066,955	5.4
Bedfordshire	23,026	14,060	46,365	83,451	1,739,793	4.8
Cambridgeshire	28,050	19,201	43,550	90,802	2,054,799	4.4
Cheshire	23,517	15,988	56,192	95,697	2,895,640	3.3
Cleveland	18,709	17,494	22,391	58,594	1,510,019	3.9
Cumbria	17,499	13,763	41,675	72,937	1,558,427	4.7
Derbyshire	23,069	19,090	50,417	92,577	2,607,326	3.6
Devon and Cornwall	64,573	43,694	103,023	211,290	3,998,856	5.3
Dorset	31,198	20,379	48,313	99,891	1,987,899	5.0
Durham	16,064	13,276	48,166	77,506	1,807,530	4.3
Dyfed-Powys	15,900	8,790	25,141	49,831	1,289,676	3.9
Essex	68,560	37,001	127,273	232,834	3,207,982	7.3
Gloucestershire	21,907	15,946	29,822	67,675	1,643,116	4.1
Greater Manchester	84,179	65,942	210,551	360,672	7,993,863	4.5
Gwent	18,263	23,939	36,970	79,173	1,531,894	5.2
Hampshire	31,568	21,623	43,365	96,555	3,358,633	2.9
Hertfordshire	39,521	34,560	62,034	136,114	3,220,642	4.2
Humberside	30,321	26,827	32,982	90,131	3,240,169	2.8
Kent	69,180	43,166	87,163	199,509	4,925,077	4.1
Lancashire	33,448	28,840	99,554	161,842	4,197,908	3.9
Leicestershire	19,783	21,884	51,047	92,714	2,475,536	3.7
Lincolnshire	16,888	13,863	48,723	79,475	1,288,478	6.2
London, City of	7,497	3,778	11,424	22,699	537,532	4.2
Merseyside	25,903	29,957	154,032	209,892	4,508,489	4.7
Metropolitan Police	280,972	273,806	685,223	1,240,001	30,714,100	4.0
Norfolk	28,337	19,040	39,787	87,164	2,631,126	3.3
Northamptonshire	37,280	24,200	25,941	87,421	2,195,711	4.0
Northumbria	32,543	30,681	99,541	162,765	4,098,918	4.0
North Wales	13,240	16,862	36,810	66,913	1,765,261	3.8
North Yorkshire	25,302	14,743	49,150	89,196	2,190,848	4.1
Nottinghamshire	37,104	23,553	77,543	138,200	3,101,421	4.5
South Wales	26,655	25,937	102,586	155,178	3,514,173	4.4
South Yorkshire	43,312	31,324	121,700	196,337	4,415,703	4.4
Staffordshire	38,322	24,803	73,096	136,221	2,926,543	4.7
Suffolk	11,334	6,571	21,440	39,344	1,839,282	2.1
Surrey	42,797	26,437	76,654	145,888	3,588,625	4.1
Sussex	59,677	51,173	96,172	207,022	4,213,044	4.9

2009-10

Police staff

	Contracted hours lost to sickness					
	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term	Total	Total contracted hours available	Hours lost to sickness as a proportion of hours available (percentage)
Thames Valley	83,953	48,666	118,982	251,601	5,796,573	4.3
Warwickshire	17,498	14,193	35,983	67,674	1,470,172	4.6
West Mercia	54,361	30,641	59,266	144,268	3,266,965	4.4
West Midlands	59,130	53,995	139,373	252,498	8,039,058	3.1
West Yorkshire	73,610	68,195	108,190	249,995	6,938,523	3.6
Wiltshire	19,943	15,992	33,989	69,924	5,421,869	1.3

2010-11

Police officers

	Contracted hours lost to sickness					
	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term	Total	Total contracted hours available	Hours lost to sickness as a proportion of hours available (percentage)
Avon and Somerset	67,987	48,324	92,026	208,337	5,680,046	3.7
Bedfordshire	21,698	16,268	38,435	76,401	2,584,599	3.0
Cambridgeshire	21,318	15,389	41,703	78,410	2,526,295	3.1
Cheshire	21,420	16,910	68,059	106,388	3,709,246	2.9
Cleveland	12,249	13,736	33,415	59,400	2,299,977	2.6
Cumbria	20,524	13,508	40,853	74,885	2,147,224	3.5
Derbyshire	31,100	29,517	86,450	147,067	3,630,521	4.1
Devon and Cornwall	63,599	45,883	45,889	155,371	6,209,366	2.5
Dorset	27,658	22,672	53,335	103,664	2,605,584	4.0
Durham	12,498	12,479	56,172	81,148	2,573,015	3.2
Dyfed-Powys	25,863	18,141	55,351	99,354	2,046,266	4.9
Essex	46,520	24,896	82,424	153,840	3,177,662	4.8
Gloucestershire	35,124	21,628	44,021	100,773	2,600,252	3.9
Greater Manchester	102,198	91,743	347,052	540,993	14,112,714	3.8
Gwent	22,798	24,905	57,482	105,185	2,660,283	4.0
Hampshire	93,840	0	131,088	224,928	6,497,219	3.5
Hertfordshire	35,535	25,298	62,957	123,790	3,643,567	3.4
Humberside	26,395	28,408	45,449	100,252	3,474,119	2.9
Kent	70,318	40,704	74,216	185,238	6,531,276	2.8
Lancashire	40,866	53,704	149,449	244,020	6,162,497	4.0
Leicestershire	16,365	21,408	36,578	74,352	4,005,408	1.9
Lincolnshire	12,769	10,935	59,154	82,858	2,102,023	3.9
London, City of	12,876	6,286	15,667	34,829	1,539,429	2.3
Merseyside	21,769	37,995	198,681	258,445	7,808,253	3.3
Metropolitan Police	322,180	349,010	1,009,992	1,681,182	58,267,216	2.9
Norfolk	28,939	24,908	48,375	102,221	2,853,253	3.6
Northamptonshire	23,678	9,311	18,694	51,682	2,342,562	2.2
Northumbria	35,653	41,540	162,054	239,246	7,214,439	3.3
North Wales	14,774	21,084	38,025	73,884	2,726,403	2.7
North Yorkshire	22,018	13,452	51,954	87,425	2,600,774	3.4
Nottinghamshire	40,741	21,916	110,973	173,631	4,196,782	4.1
South Wales	29,996	30,516	165,045	225,557	5,341,769	4.2
South Yorkshire	32,695	26,864	85,737	145,295	5,184,483	2.8
Staffordshire	41,819	34,669	89,823	166,312	3,785,676	4.4
Suffolk	27,300	18,612	59,342	105,254	2,235,274	4.7
Surrey	30,806	14,924	41,401	87,131	3,336,813	2.6
Sussex	58,353	46,749	97,679	202,780	5,689,086	3.6
Thames Valley	76,326	50,819	141,758	268,903	7,768,087	3.5
Warwickshire	16,600	15,016	45,963	77,579	1,651,235	4.7
West Mercia	49,588	34,164	82,017	165,770	2,038,357	8.1
West Midlands	109,763	113,690	344,896	568,349	15,362,366	3.7
West Yorkshire	71,714	82,407	112,125	266,247	9,854,597	2.7
Wiltshire	20,234	15,152	41,826	77,212	1,977,959	3.9

2010-11

Police staff

	Contracted hours lost to sickness					
	Short-term	*Medium-term*	*Long-term*	*Total*	*Total contracted hours available*	*Hours lost to sickness as a proportion of hours available (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	56,317	34,703	58,556	149,575	3,688,242	4.1
Bedfordshire	18,919	11,670	34,489	65,078	1,905,649	3.4
Cambridgeshire	22,636	14,839	41,856	79,330	1,964,197	4.0
Cheshire	20,326	15,966	50,105	86,398	2,796,211	3.1
Cleveland	6,627	6,765	17,040	30,433	926,868	3.3
Cumbria	16,488	11,998	30,134	58,620	1,501,417	3.9
Derbyshire	20,333	25,735	54,909	100,977	2,440,460	4.1
Devon and Cornwall	65,306	41,351	55,577	162,234	3,885,600	4.2
Dorset	29,240	18,200	43,793	91,232	1,973,607	4.6
Durham	8,197	7,211	34,402	49,809	1,702,048	2.9
Dyfed-Powys	14,991	10,216	34,590	59,797	1,268,662	4.7
Essex	36,726	20,993	58,986	116,705	2,005,000	5.8
Gloucestershire	21,604	15,376	22,914	59,895	1,611,155	3.7
Greater Manchester	66,462	55,259	186,391	308,112	7,873,585	3.9
Gwent	15,614	22,141	50,401	88,156	1,585,283	5.6
Hampshire	86,277	0	91,628	177,905	4,373,754	4.1
Hertfordshire	31,410	25,975	53,041	110,426	3,124,529	3.5
Humberside	28,246	32,040	33,305	93,591	3,186,134	2.9
Kent	55,281	34,918	71,489	161,688	4,741,687	3.4
Lancashire	33,062	32,039	81,068	146,169	3,746,923	3.9
Leicestershire	12,059	13,244	33,451	58,755	2,364,310	2.5
Lincolnshire	14,448	11,886	52,760	79,094	1,714,634	4.6
London, City of	6,713	2,670	11,414	20,797	575,681	3.6
Merseyside	19,069	23,565	108,293	150,927	4,584,491	3.3
Metropolitan Police	263,059	251,667	696,166	1,210,892	30,223,093	4.0
Norfolk	26,389	15,971	30,861	73,221	2,193,076	3.3
Northamptonshire	29,341	14,681	28,083	72,104	1,756,589	4.1
Northumbria	26,403	22,285	101,286	149,973	3,932,049	3.8
North Wales	10,076	19,453	26,900	56,429	1,700,889	3.3
North Yorkshire	22,935	13,689	47,697	84,320	2,286,348	3.7
Nottinghamshire	33,454	17,655	78,315	129,424	3,056,324	4.2
South Wales	22,368	19,922	86,009	128,299	3,401,934	3.8
South Yorkshire	39,592	31,346	118,180	189,117	4,290,464	4.4
Staffordshire	32,802	22,177	77,222	132,200	2,782,680	4.8
Suffolk	23,995	16,438	42,766	83,200	1,846,183	4.5
Surrey	41,437	20,748	48,179	110,364	3,651,168	3.0
Sussex	57,797	46,852	81,971	186,619	4,089,421	4.6
Thames Valley	77,162	45,803	99,310	222,275	5,663,811	3.9
Warwickshire	14,792	11,996	34,041	60,829	1,421,683	4.3
West Mercia	47,753	25,223	52,697	125,673	1,610,350	7.8
West Midlands	53,044	49,879	132,218	235,141	7,717,447	3.0
West Yorkshire	49,577	49,965	94,725	194,267	6,801,960	2.9
Wiltshire	23,061	13,233	33,793	70,087	1,785,742	3.9

[1] Data are provisional and have not been verified by forces.

Police: Southwark

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers were assigned to duties in the London borough of Southwark in each of the last five years; [71582]

(2) how many police community support officers were assigned to duties in the London borough of Southwark in each of the last five years; [71583]

(3) how many civilian staff were assigned to duties in the London borough of Southwark in each of the last five years. [71584]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The available information shows the number of police officers, police community support officers and police staff in the London borough of Southwark, in each of the five years to 31 March 2011 (full-time equivalents).

Police officers, police community support officers and civilian staff strength in the London borough of Southwark, 2007-11[1]

Number

As at 31 March each year	*Police officers*	*Police community support officers*	*Police staff*
2007	846	75	194

Police officers, police community support officers and civilian staff strength in the London borough of Southwark, 2007-11[1]

Number

As at 31 March each year	*Police officers*	*Police community support officers*	*Police staff*
2008	844	102	184
2009	905	132	174
2010	964	154	156
2011	933	131	151

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Prevent Strategy

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Universities UK and *(b)* the British Medical Association on the Prevent strategy. [72082]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is the lead Department for the Prevent strategy but its delivery in particular sectors is managed by other Departments.

Officials and Ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, as the lead Department for the delivery of Prevent in higher education and further education institutions, regularly meet with representatives from Universities UK.

The Department of Health, as the lead Department for the delivery of Prevent in the health sector, will shortly be discussing the Prevent strategy with the British Medical Association.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals received Prevent-related support *(a)* in the year to 1 September 2011 and *(b)* in each of the last five years as a result of intelligence passed on by groups that received Prevent funding in line with section 6.35 of the Prevent strategy. [72083]

James Brokenshire: Prevent-related support for individuals is not the result of intelligence passed on by groups but of referrals made to the Channel scheme.

Channel is a multi-agency process that aims to help individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

The specific information requested is not available but the most recent published data shows that between April 2007 to December 2010, 1,120 people were referred to Channel. Of these, 286 were assessed by a multi-agency panel as needing support.

Recording standards have varied over time and across forces, so this aggregate data may not be internally consistent and there is some evidence of imperfect data which it has not been possible to clean or correct.

Raed Salah

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date she authorised the exclusion order against Sheikh Raed Salah. [65078]

Damian Green: Raed Salah was excluded from the UK on 23 June.

Metals: Theft

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislative proposals she plans to bring forward to amend the Scrap Dealers Act 1964. [72530]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is in discussion with other Government Departments to identify whether any legislative changes should be made to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 to tackle the theft of metal.

Skilled Workers: Emigration

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the level of *(a)* immigration and *(b)* emigration between the UK and (i) the US, (ii) China, (iii) Singapore, (iv) Japan, (v) Switzerland, (vi) Jersey, (vii) Guernsey, (viii) the Isle of Man, (ix) Bermuda and (x) the Cayman Islands in each quarter since 2007. [72726]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the level of (a) immigration and (b) emigration between the UK and (i) the US, (ii) China, (iii) Singapore, (iv) Japan, (v) Switzerland, (vi) Jersey, (vii) Guernsey, (viii) the Isle of Man, (ix) Bermuda and (x) the Cayman Islands in each quarter since 2007. [72726]

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses the International Passenger Survey (IPS) to estimate flows of international migrants into and out of the United Kingdom. The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by ONS. It covers the principal air, sea and Channel Tunnel routes between the UK and countries outside the British Isles.

The table shows rolling annual estimates of long-term international migration to and from the UK for the USA, China, Singapore and Japan from the year ending March 2007 to the year ending December 2009 (the latest data available). Reliable long term migration estimates are not available for Bermuda, Switzerland or the Cayman Islands due to the small sample sizes in the IPS. Routes between the Channel Islands/Isle of Man and the UK are excluded from the estimates, as is all movement of diplomats and armed forces personnel.

International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, rolling annual data to Q4 2009, United Kingdom

Thousand

	Country of last/next residence							
	United States of America		*China (excluding Taiwan)*		*Singapore*		*Japan*	
Year ending	*Est*	*SE%*	*Est*	*SE%*	*Est*	*SE%*	*Est*	*SE%*
Inflow								
2007								
March	22	10	20	12	2	24	6	19
June	24	9	19	13	1	25	6	20
September	24	11	18	12	1	27	5	16
December	22	12	18	12	1	28	5	16
2008								
March	22	12	19	14	1	28	5	17
June	23	12	19	14	1	25	6	16
September	20	12	17	13	2	24	n/a	n/a
December	23	12	17	14	2	24	n/a	n/a
2009								
March	21	13	18	12	2	25	n/a	n/a
June	20	14	17	12	3	28	n/a	n/a
September	32	12	22	11	5	26	6	16
December	30	12	22	11	5	25	6	17
Outflow								
2007								
March	31	12	11	21	2	34	6	23
June	26	13	10	22	2	28	5	23
September	21	13	9	20	3	18	4	18
December	19	12	7	17	3	16	4	15
2008								
March	17	13	7	16	3	16	4	17
June	22	12	8	15	3	17	4	17
September	24	11	8	16	2	19	3	20
December	22	11	8	16	2	20	4	22
2009								
March	24	11	8	17	2	20	4	24
June	22	10	9	16	2	23	4	24
September	27	10	11	13	2	22	5	21
December	27	10	11	12	2	25	4	18

n/a = not available.

Notes:

1. All estimates are uncalibrated. There may therefore be small differences from other published estimates.

2. Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate. A migration figure with a standard error of >25% is not considered to be reliable. For any given estimate there is a 95% probability that the true figure lies in the range: estimate +/- 0.0196 x estimate x standard error %.

Metals: Theft

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is planning to take to reduce the trade in stolen metal; [71762]

(2) what progress her Department has made in bringing forward legislative proposals to strengthen regulation of scrap metal yards. [71763]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office recognises the significance of metal theft to the United Kingdom and that some scrap metal yards are a disposal route for stolen metal. The Home Office is in discussion with other Government Departments to identify whether any legislative changes should be made to tackle the theft of metal.

UK Border Agency: Termination of Employment

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are expected to leave the UK Border Agency through natural wastage. [72738]

Damian Green: The number of staff expected to leave the UK Border Agency through natural wastage per annum is in a range from 330 (1.5%) to 500 (2.3%) per annum. Natural wastage has been calculated on retirement and resignation rates in permanent staff.

Violent and Sex Offender Register: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national offenders were on the violent and sex offender register in each of the last five years; and how many foreign national offenders have been added to the violent and sex offender register in each of the last five years; [72370]

(2) how many foreign national offenders on the violent and sex offender register have *(a)* reoffended, *(b)* been recalled to prison and *(c)* breached the terms of their licence on release from prison in each of the last five years; [72371]

(3) for how many foreign national offenders on the violent and sex offender register is their location unknown. [72372]

Lynne Featherstone: The data required to answer this question are not collected in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

ViSOR (previously known as the violent and sex offenders register) is a UK-wide computer database system used by the police as a case management system and by other agencies to share information. ViSOR stores information on a number of offender types, including but not limited to registered sex offenders. The database is not designed as a statistical tool.

Visas

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration her Department has given to the implementation of an online system to enable applicants to monitor the progress of their visa applications. [72138]

Damian Green: Visa applicants in most countries can apply online. They receive a reference number which allows them to track where their documents are at any one time (either in the Visa Application Centre or at the decision-making UK Mission) but which does not monitor the status of the application. The decision to issue or refuse the visa is made known personally to the applicant at the time of return of their documents.

As part of the development of its new immigration case working system, the UK Border Agency is introducing online customer accounts for all applications made online both in the UK and overseas. These will include the ability for customers to receive updates on the status of their application at key junctures in the application process.

TRANSPORT

A64

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on road safety on the A64 between York and Scarborough. [72614]

Mike Penning: Representations about safety issues on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) are handled by the Highways Agency.

The Highways Agency maintains a regular dialogue with all relevant stakeholders about the A64 between York and Scarborough. This includes regular meetings with North Yorkshire police and North Yorkshire county council and various local committees and transport groups. Safety is a standing item for discussion at each of these meetings. However, no specific representations about road safety have been made to the Highways Agency at these meetings.

I can confirm that the Highways Agency has received a number of representations from the residents of the village of Ganton since 24 January 2011. These representations commenced following a fatal accident at the neighbouring village of West Heslerton. This tragic incident is currently the subject of ongoing police investigations and a coroner's inquest.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met *(a)* the Highways Agency, *(b)* North Yorkshire County Council and *(c)* local community groups to discuss road safety on the A64 between York and Scarborough. [72615]

Mike Penning: I meet regularly with the Highways Agency but there have been no specific discussions about safety on the A64 between York and Scarborough.

I have not discussed road safety matters relating to the A64 at this location with North Yorkshire county council or local community groups.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to improve road safety and reduce congestion on the A64 between York and Scarborough; and if he will make a statement. [72616]

Mike Penning: Any plans for the A64 will be developed through continuous routine network management, and will be delivered subject to prioritisation and the availability of funding.

Aviation: Working Hours

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to notify pilots of the entry into force of the new European-wide flight-time limitations; and if he will make a statement. [72320]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority will notify pilots of the entry into force of European flight and duty time limitations. Currently, we expect the Commission regulation giving effect to the proposed requirements to come into force in the autumn of 2013. We anticipate that airlines will be given an additional period to transition to the new requirements.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with the US Federal Aviation Administration on pilot fatigue; and if he will make a statement. [72321]

Mrs Villiers: At this stage in the development of the European requirements, neither the Department nor the Civil Aviation Authority has had any formal discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration on this subject.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with the Civil Aviation Authority on the Notice of Proposed Amendment on Flight-time Limitations. [72322]

Mrs Villiers: Neither Ministers nor the Secretary of State for Transport had recent discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority on this topic. However, officials have regular discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority about the development of European requirements on aviation safety including those on flight time limitations.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contribution his Department has made to establishing new flight-time limitations for pilots; and if he will make a statement. [72323]

Mrs Villiers: Officials from the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority have responded to the European Aviation Safety Agency's consultation on draft implementing rules on flight time limitations. The CAA has published its comments on its website at:

www.caa.co.uk

EASA are in the process of reviewing the responses to the consultation and will be issuing an amended proposal in due course. The Department, taking account of advice from the Civil Aviation Authority, will put forward the UK's views on the proposed requirements. Ministers will determine how the UK will vote when a legislative proposals is made.

Bus Services: Finance

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the comprehensive spending review on tendered bus services provided by local transport authorities. [72181]

Norman Baker: I am aware that, as a result of local decisions, in some areas of the country bus services are being reduced. The latest statistics on bus services can be found at the Department for Transport website and are updated periodically:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/buses/

Changes to bus and community transport services are a matter for bus operators and local transport authorities. The Government do not and cannot make an assessment of every individual change but are working with local transport authorities to get an overall picture.

Buses: Concessions

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation he undertook with *(a)* coach and bus operators, *(b)* members of the public, *(c)* charities and groups representing elderly people and *(d)* charities and groups representing people with disabilities on the change in his Department's expenditure on the Coach Concessionary Travel Scheme. [72340]

Norman Baker: The decision to end Government funding for the half price coach concession was announced as part of the Chancellor's 2010 spending review.

Decisions taken in the spending review were not the subject of public consultation.

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England have made journeys assisted by the Coach Concessionary Travel Scheme in each of the last five years. [72435]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of people assisted by the coach concessionary travel scheme in the last five years.

The following table shows the number of concessionary coach tickets sold in England in the last five years. Data are not available to show ticket sales in Sunderland specifically.

Concessionary coach tickets sold in England

	Number
2010-11	3,247,850
2009-10	3,187,476
2008-09	3,320,378
2007-08	3,011,102
2006-07	2,868,736

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 953W, on buses: concessions, what assessment he has made of the effects of withdrawing funding for the Coach Concessionary Travel Scheme on those aged over 60 in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough; and if he will make a statement. [72508]

Norman Baker: A regulatory impact assessment relating to the ending of the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) coach concession in England was drafted and submitted to the Reducing Regulation Committee for clearance. The impact assessment will be published on the DFT website and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House when it is available.

Following the 2010 spending review announcement, National Express said they were already planning for the removal of the coach concessionary fares scheme in October 2011 and would announce new products aimed at the over 60s and disabled travellers in due course. National Express said that they believed the financial impact of the scheme's removal was manageable and would be mitigated by their own plans.

No assessment of the effects of ending the coach concession in the west midlands or Dudley borough has been made.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 953W, on buses: concessions, what estimate he has made of the number of over-60s in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough who have used the Coach Concessionary Travel Scheme in each of the last five years. [72509]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of over 60s who have used the coach concessionary travel scheme in the last five years.

The following table shows the number of concessionary coach tickets sold in England in the last five years. Data are not available to show ticket sales in west midlands or Dudley specifically.

	Concessionary coach tickets sold in England
2010-11	3,247,850
2009-10	3,187,476
2008-09	3,320,378
2007-08	3,011,102
2006-07	2,868,736

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72679]

Norman Baker: DFT(c) and two of its agencies (Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Vehicle Certification Agency) use Capita Business Travel. Highways Agency uses NYS Corporate Ltd and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency uses Redfern Travel Management Services. Driving Standards Agency uses Portman Travel for the purchase of some long haul airline tickets. The remaining two agencies (Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and Government Car and Despatch Agency) do not use travel management companies for the provision of air tickets, but use direct booking if the need arises.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72710]

Norman Baker: DFT(c) and four of its agencies (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Highways Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and Vehicle Certification Agency) use contracts under the Government Travel Framework established by Buying Solutions (now Government Procurement Services). The framework provides its users with the benefits arising from collaborative procurement processes. In addition, the framework suppliers offer the centrally negotiated discounts contained in the Government Air Programme which provides savings when tickets are necessarily bought at short notice.

The remaining three agencies (Driving Standards Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) have very low demand for air tickets and use direct booking if the need arises.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72491]

Norman Baker: Support for the Department's chief scientific adviser was provided through a small unit which also had responsibility for related science, technology and research issues. The resource budget allocations (running costs) were:

	Running costs (£000)
2007-08	836
2008-09	907
2009-10	814
2010-11	722
2011-12	748

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72492]

Norman Baker: One individual held the post of chief scientific adviser in the Department for Transport between October 2006 and May 2011. The post was part-time and for both 2010 and 2011 received a salary in the range £80,000 to £84,999. The post is currently vacant.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72493]

Norman Baker: Support for the Department's chief scientific adviser was provided through a small unit which also had responsibility for related science, technology and research issues. The full-time equivalent staff allocated in that unit were:

	Full-time equivalent staff
2007-08	14.1
2008-09	12.6
2009-10	11.7
2010-11	10.7
2011-12	9.5

The unit predates this period and was substantially revised when DFT was created in 2002.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72494]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport (including agencies and non- departmental public bodies) is committed to handling science and engineering advice in accordance with the Government chief scientific adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in Policy Making".

Scientific Advisory Committees that advise the Department operate in line with the "Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees".

Commissioned research is carried out externally under contract by academia, industry and other research organisations and must comply with the "General Conditions of Contract of Services". This includes provisions that any work undertaken is in line with the required Quality Standards (which may vary from commission to commission) and is performed in accordance with the Law and Good Industry Practice.

Research undertaken and managed by social researchers within the Department is also subject to a Code of Practice set out by the Government Social Research Service (GSR), the professional membership organisation for social researchers in government. These principles apply to research undertaken by the Department's social researchers and by the external contractors they manage.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government about a railway transport hub at Heathrow airport. [71507]

Mrs Villiers: No discussions have been held with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government about the proposal for a railway transport hub at Heathrow airport.

Highways Agency: Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* transaction date, *(b)* transaction amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by the Highways Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and which of these transactions attracted level three or enhanced transaction entry. [70835]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 12 September 2011]*: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Large Goods Vehicles: EU Action

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the EU Transport Commissioner relating to proposals to increase the permitted length of HGVs; and whether he plans for further such representations. [72189]

Mike Penning: I have not discussed this matter with the EU Transport Commissioner. We intend to announce our conclusions and proposed way forward on longer semi-trailers, in the light of the responses to the recent consultation exercise, early in the new parliamentary session.

Large Goods Vehicles: Tolls

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the scope and goals are of the HGV road user charging scheme. [72206]

Mike Penning: The primary aim of the HGV road user charging scheme would be to ensure a fairer competitive environment for UK hauliers. We are still working up detailed proposals, but our current intention is that it would apply to all HGVs, both foreign and UK-registered, of 12 tonnes and above.

Metals: Theft

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the conclusions were of the interdepartmental working group on the theft of metals held on 14 September 2011 and chaired by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport; and if he will make a statement. [72604]

Norman Baker: I refer my hon. Friend to the oral answer I gave to him on this issue on 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1172. I should also record that this ministerial meeting was in fact chaired by my noble Friend Baroness Browning, then Minister of State for crime prevention and antisocial behaviour reduction.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the consolidation of existing support mechanisms for low and ultra-low emission vehicle research and development; and if he will make a statement. [72190]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has consolidated its existing support mechanisms for low and ultra-low emission vehicle research and development by channelling all future programmes through Technology Strategy Board (TSB). The Department has been working with the TSB and industry to identify key areas of research with the aim of inviting bids by end of this financial year.

Passenger Focus

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes he plans to make to the functions of Passenger Focus. [72622]

Mrs Villiers: There are no plans to change the functions of Passenger Focus. However, it has reduced the scope of its activities as part of a major restructuring programme to fit in with a substantial reduction in its budget. The inclusion of Passenger Focus in schedule 3 of the Public Bodies Bill could facilitate changes to the Passenger Focus Board.

Public Transport: Concessions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to local authorities of renewing concessionary travel passes when they expire in 2013; [72174]

(2) whether his Department plans to provide financial assistance in 2012-13 to local authorities for the renewal of concessionary travel passes when they expire in 2013; [72175]

(3) what plans he has for the validity of concessionary travel passes beyond five years; and if he will make a statement. [72177]

Norman Baker: In the spending review last autumn the Government stated that they will protect the statutory entitlement for concessionary bus travel, ensuring that older people can maintain greater freedom and independence.

Not all England National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) passes expire in 2013. Legislation requires that the maximum life of an ENCTS pass is five years from the date of issue, but there is no recommended minimum life. Travel concession authorities (TCAs) are free therefore to set the exact expiry date provided it is no more than five years. Consequently, many passes have an expiry date of less than five years and will be up for renewal before 2013. The Department has always recommended that TCAs consider staggering the expiry dates on passes so that they do not all need to be replaced at the same time. This could be done, for example, by setting expiry dates at monthly intervals by alphabetic distribution of surname, or by date of birth.

The Department will not be providing additional funding for the cost to local authorities of renewing ENCTS passes. Local authorities in England receive funding for the National Concessionary Travel Scheme through Formula Grant funding administered by DCLG. It is expected that some of this funding will be spent on administering the scheme, with the majority being spent on reimbursement to bus operators for carrying ENCTS passholders.

The Department has not made an assessment of the cost to local authorities of renewing ENCTS passes, and costs will depend on the efficiency of each TCA's individual renewals process.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of increasing the state retirement age on the cost of providing concessionary travel. [72179]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to page 15 of the Explanatory Memorandum to The Travel Concessions (Eligibility) England Order 2010 No. 459 which can be found at the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/459/pdfs/uksiem_20100459_en.pdf

Railway Stations: Manpower

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria will be used in determining which railway station ticket offices should remain staffed. [72273]

Mrs Villiers: The proposal for the removal of ticket offices at certain stations was the recommendation of an independent study by Sir Roy McNulty on the value for money of the railways. The aim of the study was to examine the overall cost structure of all elements of the rail sector to identify the options for improving value for money to both passengers and to the taxpayer, while continuing to expand capacity as necessary and drive up passenger satisfaction with the railway. Government are currently considering the findings of this independent report but no decisions have yet been made.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* safety of and *(b)* crime levels against rail travellers of unstaffed category E stations. [72329]

Mrs Villiers: No such assessments have been made by the Government. Health and safety matters at individual stations are the responsibility of railway safety duty holders such as train operating companies or infrastructure managers. These are regulated by the Office of Rail Regulation. Crime levels at individual stations are monitored by the British Transport Police (BTP).

However, the Department for Transport's Secure Stations Scheme, run jointly with the BTP, accredits stations that have good security practices in place. Accredited stations have introduced packages of security measures to cut down crime and enhance security. There are currently 1,271 accredited secure stations across the railway network.

A proposal for the removal of certain ticket offices was the recommendation of an independent study by Sir Roy McNulty on the value for money of the railways. The Government are currently considering the findings of this independent report but no decisions have yet been made.

Railways

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress he has made on implementing the recommendations of the McNulty report. [71802]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has been working closely with industry and the regulator to examine the proposals in Sir Roy McNulty's independent review of Rail Value for Money. We have already accepted Sir Roy's recommendation to conduct a review of fares policy, the terms of which we expect to announce shortly. Over the coming months, we will be finalising a package of priority proposals to be delivered through the refranchising programme and during Control Period 5.

Railways: Fares

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that increases in rail fares in 2012 will result in an improved service and better quality rolling stock. [72591]

Mrs Villiers: This Government have embarked on one of the biggest programmes of rail investment for a 100 years. This includes projects such as Crossrail, Thameslink, rail electrification and delivering more than 2,700 new rail carriages.

To deliver this major upgrade programme, we have needed to ask fare payers to contribute as well as taxpayers. The pressing need to tackle the deficit has forced us to take the difficult decisions to increase fares in 2012.

Railways: Franchises

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 746W, on west coast railway lines, whether train operating companies will continue to receive revenue from the lease for stations if they subsequently lose the franchise for the line. [72327]

Mrs Villiers: The outgoing west coast train operator would typically transfer the station lease, including the operating revenues, to a successor operator.

Where an investment has been made that extends beyond the franchise term we would expect to recognise future value for that investment at the end of the franchise through a payment from the successor operator to the outgoing operator. The detailed arrangements are under consideration.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria he plans to use to determine levels of flexibility in future rail franchises. [72330]

Mrs Villiers: The criteria which will be used to assess options for specifying and contracting rail services are:

the fit with the Government's wider transport and economic objectives;

value for money; and

affordability.

These criteria frequently conflict, and in reaching a final decision, the Department's task is to strike a reasonable balance.

Railways: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the likely average change in rail fares for rail travellers in Great Yarmouth in January 2012. [72592]

Mrs Villiers: Regulated fares from Great Yarmouth will increase by an average of 8%. This is calculated in line with the consolidated spending review announcement to increase regulated fares by RPI (which was 5% in July) plus 3% for the next three years. The increase in unregulated fares is a commercial matter for National Express East Anglia. This increase will help fund the Government's rail improvement programme.

Rescue Services: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessments he has made of the *(a)* safety risks associated with and *(b)* socio-economic impact of the proposed closure of the Clyde Coastguard. [72009]

Mike Penning: No individual assessment specific to the closure of Clyde Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre has been made in respect of *(a)* safety risk or *(b)* socio-economic impact.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has assessed on a national basis the safety risks in relation to HM Coastguard's current operation and how these are mitigated by the modernisation proposals. The MCA has also assessed the impact of the modernisation proposals on HM Coastguards capability to deliver its national service.

These assessments, as well as a location impact assessment, sub-centre rationale and supporting tables showing factors taken into consideration in the choice of sub-centres can be found on the MCA's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/mca

Road Signs and Markings

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to complete consideration of the final recommendations of the Traffic Signs review. [72188]

Norman Baker: Consideration has been completed and I expect to make a full announcement shortly.

Road Signs and Markings: Tourism

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on his Department's review of brown tourist signs. [72795]

Mike Penning: A cross-departmental review of brown tourism traffic signs was established following the publication of the Government's 'Tourism Strategy' in March. This work is proceeding and stakeholders will be invited to take part in the development of new criteria to meet both the needs of the road user and the tourism industry.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to prevent injuries *(a)* caused by and *(b)* to cyclists. [71774]

Mike Penning: We take the issue of cycle safety very seriously. Everyone who uses the highway has a responsibility to behave safely and with consideration for others, in May we launched the Strategic Framework for Road Safety:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/strategic-framework-for-road-safety

which sets out our approach to continuing to reduce killed and seriously injured casualties on Britain's roads. In addition the Government are also progressing measures with regards to improving European vehicle safety regulations, supporting Bikeability cycle training for the rest of this Parliament, raising the standard of lorry driver training, and promoting the Highway Code. There are also a range of measures local authorities can take, for instance, safer road infrastructure, cycle lanes, local safety campaigns, 20 mph zones and better traffic management. These will, however, depend on local decisions and need to reflect local priorities.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what comparison he has made between the procurement processes for new passenger rolling stock of his Department with *(a)* the rolling stock leasing companies and *(b)* Transport for London. [68848]

Mrs Villiers: The Department shares knowledge with Transport for London (TfL) on its procurements and looks at lessons learnt from previous procurements including those by rolling stock leasing companies and TfL. This work helps inform decisions on procurement strategy.

Safety Belts

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent research his Department has evaluated on installing seat belt reminders in cars; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such piece of research; and if he will make a statement; [R] [72220]

(2) what recent reports he has received of the effectiveness of advanced seat belt reminder systems with visual and audible warnings for increasing seat belt use; and if he will make a statement. [R] [72221]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not evaluated any research on installing seat belt reminders in cars, nor has it reviewed any reports regarding the effectiveness of advanced seat belt reminder systems.

However, requirements for fitting seat belt reminders with both visual and audible warnings to the driver's seat of passenger cars were included within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe regulations in 2008.

Many manufacturers already build their vehicles to conform to these regulations on a voluntary basis, in order to achieve higher ratings in consumer tests, but these provisions will become mandatory across Europe for all new types of passenger cars from November 2012, as part of a suite of harmonisation and simplification measures.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department took to ensure consultants and consultancies offering advice on the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract were impartial and credible. [71817]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* All consultants that have been employed on the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project procurement have had to satisfy the requirements of an accreditation review by the Department for Transport (DFT). Furthermore, support contracts have been subjected to individual procurement competitions to ensure that suppliers are capable of delivering the required services whilst offering value for money. At all times suppliers are obliged to declare any conflict of interest to the DFT.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project contract is subject to (a) Public Contract Regulations and (b) Utilities Contract Regulations. [72401]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the right hon. Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett) on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 219W.

Traffic Commissioners

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to appoint a new senior traffic commissioner. [72728]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), expects a new senior traffic commissioner to be appointed by the end of the year.

Traffic Commissioners: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on establishing a post of traffic commissioner for Wales located in Wales. [72729]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has had no specific discussions with the Minister in the Welsh Government on this matter.

Twickenham Station: Rugby World Cup

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Rugby Football Union, *(b)* Network Rail and *(c)* the London borough of Richmond upon Thames to consider changes to Twickenham railway station ahead of the 2015 Rugby World Cup. [72353]

Mrs Villiers: Details of meetings by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), are published quarterly on the Department for Transport (DFT) website.

He has not met with the Rugby Football Union, Network Rail or the London borough of Richmond upon Thames to discuss changes to Twickenham railway station.

The DFT expects the Rugby Football Union to engage with the rail industry and local authorities to co-ordinate the transport strategy for this event.

CABINET OFFICE

Admiralty Arch: Admiralty House

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the cost to the public purse has been of any damage to the Admiralty House residences since May 2010; [72388]

(2) what catering services his Department has provided to the Secretary of State for Defence on a re-charge basis in respect of use of a flat in Admiralty House; [72402]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 618W on Admiralty Arch: Admiralty House, for what reason the Secretary of State for Defence has use of a flat in Admiralty House; on what date his use of the flat began; what expenditure his Department has incurred in relation to the flat since May 2010; and for what purposes. [72403]

Mr Maude: There has been no cost to the public purse of damage to the Admiralty House residences since May 2010. Any catering services provided by the Cabinet Office's facilities management contractor to the occupants of Admiralty House are recharged. Official residences are assigned to Ministers by the Prime Minister either on grounds of security or in order to allow them to perform better their official duties. The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), had use of a flat in Admiralty House from 20 April 2011. Other than meeting the cost of the council tax while it was unoccupied, and a deep clean prior to occupation, the Cabinet Office has not incurred any expenditure in relation to the flat since May 2010.

Charitable Donations: Fraud

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the financial effect on the charity sector of each type of fraudulent charity collection. [72553]

Mr Hurd: The Office for Civil Society has not attempted to estimate the financial cost to charities as a result of fraudulent charity collections due to a lack of reliable data, and because records are not kept centrally. Sector estimates put the cost to charities of bogus house to house collections and theft of donated goods at anything between £15 million and £50 million a year. I continue to encourage and support collaborative work between the charity sector, commercial recyclers, and licensing and enforcement agencies to tackle these unacceptable crimes and reassure the generous donating public that they can give with confidence.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Structure

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when the new charitable incorporated organisation structure will be announced. [72069]

Mr Hurd: The draft Secondary Legislation needed to complete the legal framework for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is currently being finalised. This is taking longer than expected, as there have been some complex issues to resolve on the insolvency and dissolution regime for CIOs.

Subject to parliamentary approval, implementation is now expected to start in early 2012. Implementation will have to be phased to help the Charity Commission manage anticipated demand. An announcement will be made in due course.

Charities Act 2006

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations he has received on the implementation of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2006; and if he will publish these representations. [72555]

Mr Hurd: Chapters 2 and 3 of part 3 of the Charities Act 2006 have been implemented. However, chapter 1, which makes provision for the regulation of public charitable collections, has not yet been implemented. I have received a number of representations from Members of this House, charity sector representatives and local licensing authorities, arguing both for and against implementation. I do not intend to publish these as I have publicly stated that the review of the Charities Act 2006, due to start shortly, will consider the options for the future licensing and regulation of public charitable collections.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to consult the civil society sector on the development of terms of reference under the Charities Act 2006. [72556]

Mr Hurd: There will not be a formal consultation with the civil society sector on the development of the terms of reference for the review of the Charities Act 2006. Our intention is that the review's terms of reference will give it a broad scope to consider the legal and regulatory framework for charities, and fundraising for charitable purposes. An announcement about the review will be made shortly.

Charities: Finance

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking in respect of street fundraisers. [72554]

Mr Hurd: The licensing and regulation of charitable, philanthropic or benevolent fundraising in the street will be considered as part of the forthcoming statutory review of the Charities Act 2006. An announcement about the review will be made shortly.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72682]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office uses Carlson Wagon Lit (CWT) as the travel management company for booking airline tickets.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [72438]

(2) what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years; [72439]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72440]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not have a departmental scientific adviser.

The Government's chief scientific adviser (GCSA), Sir John Beddington, has responsibility for ensuring that policy and decision-making across Government are underpinned by robust scientific evidence.

Part of this role coincides with the cross-Government work of the Cabinet Office in that the GCSA:

Provides scientific advice to No. 10 and Cabinet where needed;

Normally chairs the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), which provides scientific advice to the Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms (COBR) in times of crisis;

Chairs the National Security Council Officials' Science and Technology sub-committee (NSC(O)S&T).

The GCSA also has oversight of other cross-Government science issues. For example, the scrutiny of the scientific evidence underpinning the National Risk Assessment (NRA), which is owned by responsible Departments and the Cabinet Office.

Government Office for Science supports the GCSA and is located in the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills.

Consultants

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the average daily rate paid to external consultants across central Government in each of the last five financial years. [72139]

Mr Maude: Last year the Government saved over £800 million on consultancy as a result of the controls they put in place. These controls currently remain and will be supported by a new centralised contract, currently being finalised for common consultancy roles, to improve the way central Government purchase consultancy.

The Cabinet Office does not hold average day rates for consultancy across Government. Departments are responsible for their own purchasing of consultants because of the specific nature of individual requirements.

Disabled Staff

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people with disabilities were employed by each Government department in each of the last five years. [72088]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people with disabilities were employed by each Government department in each of the last five years (72088).

Civil Service Statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the ONS website. Civil Service Statistics seek to collect the disability status of every civil servant but government departments can only record individuals as 'disabled' if the individuals concerned have actively declared themselves so. Therefore, the estimates in the table show the number of people who have declared themselves to be disabled.

A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Angela Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72559]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office commissions external legal advisers in line with its policy guidance for the use of consultancy and other external resources.

Complete information with regard to hourly rates and specific individuals appointed is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the 10 largest suppliers of goods and services to his Department were in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11, measured in terms of the total monetary value of expenditure incurred; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) monetary value was of each contract with each such supplier. [69336]

Mr Maude: The 10 largest suppliers to the Cabinet Office by value in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are set out in the table.

Supplier	*Services supplied*	*£*
2009-10		
Ecovert FM Ltd	Facilities management services	37,399,038
British Broadcasting Corporation	Media monitoring services	25,016,000
Fujitsu Services Ltd	IT and telecommunications services	9,587,589
Steria UK Ltd	Website hosting and managed services	8,321,558
CESG	Technical security consultancy services	5,300,364
The Social Investment Business	Grant fund administration services	4,951,114
Capita	Civil Service pension payroll services, medical advisory services, and temporary labour	4,888,317
Ministry of Defence	Telecommunications services	3,858,240
Central Office of Information	Media and marketing services	3,841,192
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Consultancy support to Civil Service Pension Transformation programme	2,806,681
2010-11		
Ecovert FM Ltd	Facilities management services	31,261,282
British Broadcasting Corporation	Media monitoring services	25,624,000

Supplier	*Services supplied*	*£*
Fujitsu Services Ltd	IT and telecommunications services	13,976,450
Department for Work and Pensions	Employee and financial transaction services and Civil Service pension administration services	8,970,243
Ministry of Defence	Telecommunications services	6,348,057
Steria UK Ltd	Website hosting and managed services	5,379,833
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Consultancy support to Civil Service Pension Transformation programme	4,656,083
Central Office of Information	Media and marketing services	3,864,210
The Social Investment Business	Grant fund administration services	3,003,193
Parity Solutions Ltd	Recruitment services	2,217,263

Information relating to the total monetary value of each contract may be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the merits of including socio-economic considerations in public procurement tenders. [72398]

Mr Maude: Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification.

Wider socio-economic benefits that do not accrue to the contracting authority cannot be taken into account at tender evaluation stage as they do not relate to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.

However, there is currently a review of public procurement under way, which is examining UK application of EU procurement rules. The review will consider any actions the Government need to take to help ensure that UK businesses can compete for Government work on an equal footing with their competitors.

Employment: Private and Public Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many private sector jobs were created in each month in the last two years in each parliamentary constituency in the UK; [72023]

(2) what proportion of employment was in the public sector in each parliamentary constituency in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011; [72032]

(3) what the rates of unemployment were in the 100 parliamentary constituencies with the greatest level of public sector employment in each of the last 18 months. [72039]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many private sector jobs were created in each month in the last two years in each parliamentary constituency (72023); what proportion of employment was public sector employment in each parliamentary constituency in (a) June 2010 and (b) June 2011 (72032); and what the rates of unemployment were in the hundred parliamentary constituencies with the greatest level of public sector employment in each of the last 18 months. (72039)

Due to small sample sizes, estimates of the number of private sector jobs created are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1 shows the percentage of public sector employment in each parliamentary constituency, from the Annual Population Survey (APS), for the latest available period (January 2010 to December 2010) and for 12 months earlier. Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey.

Table 2 shows the unemployment rate in the 100 parliamentary constituencies with the highest level of public sector employment (based on the January 2010 to December 2010 period) for each period from the twelve month period July 2008 to June 2009 to the latest available period.

As the information requested is quite extensive, a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Financial Services: Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of jobs in the financial sector in each quarter since 2007. [72730]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority, I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question concerning the number of jobs in the financial sector in each quarter since 2007. (72730)

The following table contains the seasonally adjusted number of UK workforce jobs in the financial sector in each quarter since 2007. Workforce jobs include employee jobs, self-employed jobs and government-supported trainees. Quarterly estimates since 1978 are available at

www.ons.gov.uk

United Kingdom

	Seasonally adjusted (thousand) *Total workforce jobs in SIC2007 section K; financial and insurance activities*
2007 Q1	1,162.3
2007 Q2	1,168.5
2007 Q3	1,169.1
2007 Q4	1,174.2
2008 Q1	1,190.8
2008 Q2	1,189.0
2008 Q3	1,194.0
2008 Q4	1,194.4
2009 Q1	1,192.9

United Kingdom

	Seasonally adjusted (thousand)
	Total workforce jobs in SIC2007 section K: financial and insurance activities
2009 Q2	1,180.0
2009 Q3	1,136.1
2009 Q4	1,133.3
2010 Q1	1,095.1
2010 Q2	1,125.2
2010 Q3	1,135.3
2010 Q4	1,136.3
2011 Q1	1,138.8
2011 Q2	1,125.1

Source:
Business Statistics Division, ONS

Immigration

George Freeman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of immigration from outside the EU was *(a)* by country of origin, *(b)* by continent of origin and *(c)* in total in each of the last 10 months; and if he will make a statement. [72288]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of immigration from outside the EU was (a) by country of origin, (b) by continent of origin and (c) in total in each of the last 10 months; and if he will make a statement (72288).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses the International Passenger Survey (IPS) to estimate flows of international migrants into and out of the United Kingdom. The IPS is a sample survey and cannot provide monthly estimates of migration.

The latest annual long-term international migration estimates by citizenship and country of last/next residence relate to calendar year 2009; these are available on the ONS website in the 3 Series IPS tables (3.01) by using the following link:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-228078

Marriage Certificates: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many marriage certificates were issued in Wales in each of the last three years; and how many and what proportion were in the English only format. [72310]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many marriage certificates were issued in Wales in each of the last three years, and how many and what proportion were in the English only format [72310].

The table below shows the number of marriages registered in Wales between 2006 and 2008, the latest year for which figures are available. The table also shows the number and percentage of these in which the information has been entered in both the English and Welsh languages.

Table 1: Bilingual and English only marriage registrations in Wales, 2006-08

		Bilingual registrations		*English only registrations*	
	Number of marriages registered	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006	13,483	470	3.5	13,013	96.5
2007	12,884	483	3.7	12,401	96.3
2008	12,925	520	4.0	12,405	96.0

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Once a marriage has been registered, it is possible to purchase one or more certified copies (certificates) of the register entry. These will be an exact copy of the information as recorded in the entry. A central record of the number of such certificates issued locally across Wales is not compiled.

Public Sector: Manpower

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people were employed in the public sector in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough in each of the last three years; [72545]

(2) how many people were employed in a *(a)* full-time capacity and *(b)* a part-time capacity in the public sector in (i) the West Midlands and (ii) Dudley borough in each of the last three years. [72546]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people were employed in the public sector in (a) the West Midlands and (b) Dudley Borough in each of the last three years; and how many people were employed in a (a) full-time capacity and (b) a part-time capacity in the public sector in (i) the West Midlands and (ii) Dudley Borough in each of the last three years. (72545 & 72546)

Public Sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey.

Table 1 shows the number of persons employed in the public sector, broken down by part-time and full-time, resident in the West Midlands and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. The figures have been provided from the APS for the 12 month periods ending in December from 2008 to 2010, the latest period for which figures are available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of the resident population of West Midlands and Dudley employed in the public sector by full-time and part-time

Level (Thousand)

	West Midlands			Dudley		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
12 months ending December						
2008	398	181	579	22	10	32
2009	414	188	602	26	11	36
2010	*391	*192	*583	***26	***9	**35

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5—Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10—Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20—Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20—Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey.

Unemployment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the unemployment rate is for *(a)* professional managers and senior officials, *(b)* skilled workers and *(c)* unskilled workers. [72057]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the unemployment rate is for (a) professional managers and senior officials, (b) skilled workers and (c) unskilled workers. [72057]

For the period April-June 2011 the UK unemployment rate for people previously employed as a corporate manager, director or senior official was an estimated 3 per cent. The unemployment rate for people previously employed in skilled and unskilled occupations was an estimated 5 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. In each case, the unemployment rate has been based on a denominator comprising the sum of all those currently employed in the occupational group and all those unemployed who reported that their previous job was in that group.

Estimates for unemployment are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) with previous occupation based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). The structure of the SOC allows the measurement of 'skill levels' for occupations that are similar in terms of qualification, training, skill and experience.

In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) convention, people are classed as unemployed if they are: without a job, and have actively sought work in the last four weeks; or, out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

TREASURY

11 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* official and *(b)* charity receptions he has held at 11 Downing street in 2010-11; and what the (i) date and (ii) cost to the public purse was of each. [72431]

Justine Greening: There have been more than 20 receptions held for charities in the last 16 months hosted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Ministers.

There has been no cost to the public purse for any reception held at No. 11.

Bank of England: Public Appointments

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the possibility of re-appointment to the post of Governor of the Bank of England for a second term. [71922]

Mr Hoban: Schedule 1 of The Bank of England Act' 1998 states that appointment as Governor or Deputy Governor of the Bank shall be for a period of five years. The current Governor, appointed in 2003, is on his second term in office. The Bank of England Act 1998, as amended by the Banking Act 2009, provides that a person may not be appointed as Governor more than twice.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to enhance pre-appointment scrutiny of members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England by the House of Commons. [71979]

Justine Greening: The Treasury Select Committee (TSC) conducts pre-commencement hearings of members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England. These hearings take place after appointments have been made, but before members start work.

The Government consider appointments for MPC members as market sensitive and therefore not appropriate for pre-appointment scrutiny.

Bristol and West: Shares

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make representations to the Irish government on the position of UK holders of Bristol and West Permanent Interest Bearing Shares; and if he will make a statement. [72389]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 342W.

Business

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the contribution of non-EU based businesses in the *(a)* financial and *(b)* insurance sector to the UK's total GDP in each of the last five years. [71905]

Mr Hoban: The data breakdown required to provide estimates of the contribution of non-EU based businesses in the financial and insurance sectors to the UK's total GDP is not available. However we are able to provide estimates of the contribution of the Financial Intermediation—which includes both the financial and insurance sectors—sector to GDP over each of the last five years.

In 2009 Financial Intermediation represented 10.0% of nominal Gross Value Added; in 2008 it represented 9.0%; in 2007 it represented 8.3%; in 2006 it represented 7.7%; and in 2005 it represented 7.1%.

CF Arch Cru Investment Fund

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason he has not established an inquiry under Section 14 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 in respect of the CF Arch Cru Investment Fund. [72515]

Mr Hoban: In relation to Arch Cru funds, Capita Financial Managers Limited (CFM) announced that "The FSA will, in due course, be publishing a statement of its findings in relation to CFM's role regarding the Arch Cru funds". The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is continuing to look at the issues surrounding the Arch Cru funds and while the FSA's work is ongoing, it would be inappropriate for the Government to make any further comment on this issue or commit to taking any action as a result.

Charity Bank

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the permanent site of the headquarters of the Charity Bank in Cardiff; and if he will make a statement. [71719]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

I have not received any representations on locating the big society bank in Cardiff, but I have recently visited Wales to discuss social investment and promote the bank there.

It is for Big Society Capital to choose where it locates its headquarters.

Child Benefit

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many individuals will be affected by the proposed withdrawal of child benefit for claimants or their partners liable to pay higher rate tax are women; [72114]

(2) in how many cases of those affected by the proposed withdrawal of child benefit for claimants or their partners liable to pay higher rate income tax *(a)* the child benefit claimant only, *(b)* the partner of the child benefit claimant only and *(c)* both the child benefit claimant and their partner are liable to pay higher rate income tax. [72115]

Mr Gauke: Child benefit is paid to an individual claimant on behalf of the child, and not for the personal benefit of the claimant. Child benefit will be withdrawn from families where the claimant, or their partner (with whom they are living) is a higher rate taxpayer.

Around 1.5 million families are affected. Around 1.3 million affected families contain one higher rate taxpayer and around 130,000 affected families contain two higher rate taxpayers. Around 55,000 of the affected families are lone-parent families. Of these, around 35,000 are female and around 20,000 are male.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to treat the savings from the proposed withdrawal of child benefit for claimants or their partners liable to pay higher rate tax as *(a)* a reduction in tax revenue or *(b)* a saving in public expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [72118]

Mr Gauke: Consistent with the ONS's advice, table 2.2 of Budget 2011 shows the savings as a spending reduction, available at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

Cluster Munitions

Mrs Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland and *(b)* Lloyds on investments in companies that produce cluster munitions; and if he will make a statement. [72762]

Mr Hoban: The Government's shareholdings in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) are managed on a commercial and arm's length basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI), a company which is wholly owned by the Government.

UKFI's role is to manage the Government's investments, not to manage the banks—the banks retain their own independent boards and management teams to manage the banks commercially without interference from shareholders.

Both publicly-owned banks have issued denials that they knowingly support or provide finance to companies who manufacture weapons that would be in breach of the convention. RBS has publicly stated that it will not knowingly support or provide finance to companies who manufacture weapons that would be in breach of the letter or the spirit of the convention.

Coastal Communities Fund: Scotland

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on their involvement in the allocation of the Coastal Communities Fund. [71939]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: I have had no such discussions with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. The Scottish Government will be fully consulted as the Government take forward the Coastal Communities Fund.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets; [72689]

(2) what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72703]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has used Carlson Wagonlit Travel since 2007 for the purchase of airline tickets. The contract with Carlson Wagonlit Travel requires the supplier to continually source and negotiate improved fares on behalf of HM Treasury. The supplier is also required to provide the Department with monthly management information on the savings they have achieved for the Department.

HM Treasury employees are required to book travel in accordance with the Departments Travel and Subsistence policy which advises on booking travel in the most cost-effective way.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [72495]

(2) what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years; [72496]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72497]

Justine Greening: Dr James Richardson has been chief scientific adviser (CSA) at HM Treasury since the post was established in June 2011. His salary is notified through the usual public disclosure provisions for the SCS. It is between £85,000 and £90,000.

There are no specific resources reserved exclusively to support the CSA, but resources are drawn on from across the Treasury for work arising from the post as appropriate.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72498]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury is committed to handling all scientific evidence and advice in accordance with the "Government Social Research Code" and the Government chief scientific adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making".

Scientific evidence and advice may be used to support material submitted by other Departments and agencies to HM Treasury, but in the usual course of its business HM Treasury does not independently contract research or advice on scientific matters. HMT has no formal requirement that a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice must be provided to contracted scientific advisers. The usual provisions that relate to a wider range of procurements do apply.

Disclosure of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has issued guidance and instructions to Cabinet colleagues regarding the sign-off and agreement of policy announcements over the party conference season; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any such guidance; [68179]

(2) when he plans to answer question 68179 on policy announcements during the party conference season tabled on 18 July 2011 for answer on 5 September. [71971]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: The Treasury and Cabinet Office have issued joint guidance setting out the timetables and processes for obtaining any necessary approvals or collective agreement ahead of party conferences, in line with the rules set out in the Cabinet Manual and "Managing public money".

Staff Survey

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how often his Department conducts a staff survey; and if he will place a copy of the report of the most recent staff survey in the Library. [72375]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury runs an annual staff survey every autumn as part of the cross-government Civil Service People Survey. The most recent survey was held in autumn 2010; the results for HM Treasury are available on the HM Treasury website. A summary of the results has been placed in the Library following this request.

Staff Magazine

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department produces a staff magazine; and with what frequency. [72504]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury does not produce a staff magazine.

Training

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* seminars, *(b)* workshops and *(c)* exhibitions were held by the human resources team in his Department in 2010-11. [72503]

Justine Greening: In 2010-11, alongside a programme of formal training events, staff from HM Treasury's human resources team ran a number of regular informal internal seminars and workshops for Treasury staff on a range of subjects including health and wellbeing, recruitment and pay. No exhibitions took place in that time.

Departmental Written Questions

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what deadlines his Department's Parliamentary Unit normally sets for the receipt of draft answers to *(a)* written parliamentary questions for answer on a named day and *(b)* other written parliamentary questions from officials. [72377]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers endeavour to answer questions within the timescales set by the House of Commons. This determines the date by which officials are asked to prepare draft replies.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions in the last 12 months he has circulated guidance to other Departments relating to answers to round-robin written parliamentary questions. [72378]

Justine Greening: In their response to the Third Report of Session 2003-04 from the Public Administration Select Committee, the previous Government made clear that while individual Departments may liaise with each other when they receive the same question, this co-ordination:

> "does not cut across the line of ministerial accountability which is that it is for individual Ministers to decide on the final content of an answer to a Parliamentary Question."

The Treasury has provided advice to other Government Departments on this basis.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many written parliamentary questions his Department has taken longer than 10 days to answer in the current Session. [72420]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers responded within 10 days to 3,727 of the 4,084 (91.3%) written questions tabled to the Treasury since the beginning of the current session.

The Leader of the House provides the Procedure Committee with Sessional statistics about all Departments' performance in providing written answers.

Economic Policy

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to include an assessment of the Government's fiscal consolidation as part of his strategy for economic growth. [72235]

Justine Greening: The Government created the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in June 2010, bringing independence, greater transparency and credibility to the economic and fiscal forecasts upon which fiscal policy is based.

The Chancellor has announced that the OBR will publish the next Economic and Fiscal Outlook on 29 November 2011.

Economic Situation: International Co-operation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his US counterpart during the recent G7 summit on supporting global economic growth and stability. [71904]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor is in regular contact with his G7 partners (including the US) to discuss a range of issues, including the global economy. The global economy was discussed at the Marseille G7 meeting, where Ministers and Governors committed to a strong and coordinated international response to maintain financial stability, restore confidence and support growth.

Energy: Prices

Albert Owen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with representatives of the six largest energy companies to discuss electricity and gas prices in 2011 to date. [71550]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 13 September 2011]*: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Equitable Life: Compensation

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he has not used his statutory powers under the Policyholders Protection Act 1997 to require the insurance industry to contribute to restoring the losses of Equitable Life policyholders. [72319]

Mr Hoban: The Equitable Life Payment Scheme has been set up in recognition of losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders as a result of Government maladministration. It would not be appropriate to require the insurance industry to contribute to the cost of this.

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider further compensation for Equitable Life policy holders to take account of inflation since 2009. [71928]

Mr Hoban: Payments will be made in accordance with the profile set out at the spending review settlement—with £1 billion allocated to the scheme in the first three years of this spending review—and the Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments' recommendations on the prioritisation of payments.

Payments will be free of UK income tax, capital gains tax, or (in the case of companies) corporation tax. More detail on how this will apply across the tax system, including inheritance tax and tax credits, is set out in the Scheme rules, available at:

http://equitablelifepaymentscheme.independent.gov.uk/docs/pdfs/elps_main_doc_final.pdf

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will assess the effects of road fuel duty on small businesses; and if he will make a statement; [72199]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the level of taxation on *(a)* diesel and *(b)* unleaded petrol on the standard of living of (A) job seekers and (B) pensioners; and if he will make a statement; [72200]

(3) what recent discussions he has held with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of the effects on rural businesses of the cost of petrol; and if he will make a statement; [72201]

(4) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the effects of the removal of the bio-diesel duty differential on achieving the Government's targets for green energy usage; and if he will make a statement; [72202]

(5) if he will assess the effects of the volatility of the price of fuel on the economic growth of small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [72203]

Justine Greening: Small businesses including those in rural areas are affected by a range of measures to tackle the deficit and support growth including fuel duty and other policy measures. From April the small profits rate of corporation tax reduced to 20%. Budget 2011 added to this by extending the small business rate relief holiday by one year from 1 October 2011. Businesses may reclaim VAT and deduct other business costs including fuel costs under existing business tax arrangements.

The Government's taxation decisions including on fuel duty support their objective to achieve strong, sustainable growth. Budget 2011 reduced fuel duty by 1 penny per litre, abolished the fuel duty escalator and replaced it with a fair fuel stabiliser. As of 1 April 2011, small businesses, job seekers and pensioners could have benefited from average pump prices being 6 pence per litre lower as a result of these changes compared to the previous Government's fuel duty plans.

Treasury Ministers routinely discuss a range of issues with Cabinet colleagues.

Financial Institutions: Hearing Impaired

Jim Dowd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken, and what further steps he plans to take, to assist British Sign Language users to communicate with financial institutions *(a)* in person, *(b)* by telephone and *(c)* by other electronic means. [71793]

Mr Hoban: As part of its implementation of the European Framework on Electronic Communications, Government are supporting deaf, deaf/blind and hard of hearing telecoms users by pursuing the duty for businesses and organisations to provide suitable access to equivalent services and products for disabled users through the eAccessibility Forum, which draws together Government, industry and the voluntary sector to explore and understand issues of e-accessibility and develop and share best practice across all sectors.

Ofcom is currently conducting a review of the adequacy of relay services for people with hearing difficulties in the UK, to assess whether existing provisions provide equivalent access.

To complement Ofcom's review of future relay services in the UK, one of the eAccessibility Forums work streams is looking at ways we can improve the present use of text relay service in the UK. Lloyds Banking Group as well as BT, The Employers forum for Disability Issues, The Post Office, and the Motability Contact Centre are working with the forum to improve the level of service provided by just not only financial institutions but businesses and organisations alike.

The Equality Act 2010 also requires companies providing services to make reasonable adjustments for those customers with disabilities, including customers with hearing difficulties.

Financial Services

Mark Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many claims for compensation in respect of the NDF Administration Fixed Income Plan June 2008 submitted to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and assessed by a subcontractor, were successful in receiving compensation on the *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third and *(d)* fourth attempt; [71755]

(2) how many claims for compensation in respect of the NDF Administration Fixed Income Plan June 2008 submitted to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme since 2008 were assessed by a subcontractor; and how many of these were *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected; [71756]

(3) how many applications for compensation in respect of the NDF Administration Fixed Income Plan June 2008 the Financial Services Compensation Scheme has received since 2008; [71757]

(4) what the highest number of claims is for compensation received by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme from one applicant in respect of the NDF Administration Fixed Income Plan June 2008; [71758]

(5) how many applications to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme for compensation in respect of the NDF Administration Fixed Income Plan June 2008 were successful on the *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third and *(d)* fourth attempt; [71760]

(6) whether secondary, tertiary and additional applications for compensation in respect of the NDF Administration Fixed Income Plan June 2008, submitted to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) and assessed by a subcontractor but unsuccessful on the first attempt were sent to the same subcontractor for consideration on subsequent occasions; and by what mechanism applications were divided between FSCS and subcontractors. [71765]

Mr Hoban: This is a matter for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), which as a non-Government body administers the scheme independently from Government. I have written to the chief executive of FSCS, asking him to reply directly.

Immigration: Students

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department regarding the potential impact of reforms to the student immigration system on *(a)* growth and *(b)* the fiscal position. [72052]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions

Inflation: Annuities

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of inflation on the annuities market. [71213]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* No recent assessment has been made of the effect of inflation on the annuities market.

For those who decide to use their pension to purchase an annuity, shopping around for the best rate may increase their income. In particular, there are higher rates available for smokers and people with health conditions, so they should check whether a better deal is available elsewhere before accepting their provider's offer.

Those who are worried that rising inflation may reduce the purchasing power of their annuity income can consider purchasing an index-linked annuity. This product would adjust their income in line with inflation thereby providing protection against future price rises.

Insurance: Unfair Practices

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the average waiting time for resolution of complaints by the Financial Services Ombudsman for cases involving the mis-selling of payment protection insurance. [72274]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) is operationally independent of Government. According to their annual review, 41% of all complaints (including payment protection insurance (PPI)) were settled within three months, 70% within six months, 81% within nine months and 87% within 12 months. Their latest published quarterly figures show that they received 56,025 new cases about PPI between April and June 2011. HM Treasury does not hold more detailed information on waiting times than the data the FOS publishes.

There is currently a large number of PPI complaints at the FOS due to a build-up of claims following the banks' earlier refusal to deal with cases during the British Bankers' Association's judicial review of the FSA and the FOS's approach to PPI. The FOS is currently working closely with the banks to ensure cases can be resolved as soon as possible.

Judiciary

Mr Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the funding of the proposal to televise aspects of the work of the judiciary; and if he will make a statement. [71753]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practise to provide details of all such discussions.

Loans: Greece

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that the Government will provide no additional public sector support to the Government of Greece in the event that that country seeks further financial assistance. [72194]

Mr Hoban: The international financial assistance package for Greece agreed in May 2010 included a €30 billion loan from the international Monetary Fund and €80 billion of bilateral loans from euro area member states. There was no contribution either from the EU Budget or from the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, which is backed by the EU Budget.

The Prime Minister secured agreement at the June European Council that the EU-wide European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM) would not be used in a second assistance package for Greece.

Members: Correspondence

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Exchequer Secretary plans to respond to the letters of *(a)* 27 January 2011 and *(b)* 15 April 2011 from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale on behalf of Mr John Reilly. [64020]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to my hon. Friend.

I also replied to the same inquiry forwarded by my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien).

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Complaints Manager, HMRC Customer Operations Complaints Service, Queensway House, East Kilbride to respond to the Member for Edinburgh West's letters of 1 August 2011 and 25 August 2011 regarding Mrs D E Cooper. [72228]

Mr Gauke: A member of the Complaints Team at East Kilbride replied to the letter of 1 August 2011 by telephone on 8 August 2011.

The Complaints Manager at East Kilbride replied to the letter of 25 August 2011 on 2 September 2011.

These letters were responded to within the Department's 15 working days target.

Mortgages: Northern Ireland

Dr McCrea: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mortgage repossessions have taken place in Northern Ireland since autumn 2008. [72205]

Mr Hoban: The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority collect data on repossessions across the UK. There are no specific repossessions data for Northern Ireland. The Ministry of Justice collects data on writs and summonses for possessions in Northern Ireland. There have been 11,035 since August 2008. The number fell 13% from 2009 to 2010.

National Insurance Contributions

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending the national insurance holiday scheme to apply to one additional employee taken on by existing businesses with four or fewer members of staff; [71267]

(2) how many new businesses in Newton Abbot constituency have benefited under the national insurance holiday scheme. [71305]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* A reliable estimate of the potential cost of extending the national insurance contributions (NICs) holiday to existing micro businesses who employ one additional member of staff is not available due to data limitations.

The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs holiday to all existing micro businesses but believe the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the NICs holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

A breakdown of successful applications for the NICs holiday by constituency will be published in the NICs Holiday Factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time jobs were created in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales, (iv) Northern Ireland and (v) each parliamentary constituency as a result of the temporary waiver from employer's national insurance contributions for the hiring of new employees in each month since the introduction of that waiver. [71345]

Mr Gauke: A breakdown of the number of jobs that have been supported by the NICs holiday, by region and constituency, will be published in the NICs Holiday Factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

Due to data limitations the factsheet will not differentiate between full-time and part-time jobs that have been supported by the policy.

National Insurance Contributions: Devizes

Claire Perry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Devizes constituency have benefited from the National insurance contributions holiday scheme to date. [72012]

Mr Gauke: A breakdown of successful applications for the NICs holiday by constituency will be published in the NICs Holiday Factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for the national insurance holiday scheme had been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in each region as at 13 September 2011. [72090]

Mr Gauke: A breakdown of successful applications for the NICs holiday by region will be published in the NICs holiday factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

Oil: Prices

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of recent trends in oil prices on *(a)* the UK's public finances, *(b)* the UK economy and *(c)* inflation. [72295]

Justine Greening: The Government consider a range of factors when assessing prospects for the economy and public finances.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR published an 'Assessment of the Effect of Oil Price Fluctuations on the Public Finances' in September 2010, which is available online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/assessment_oilprice_publicfinances.pdf

The Chancellor has asked the OBR to publish a new economic and fiscal forecast on 29 November.

Pensions: Tax Allowances

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he will take of the effects of tax relief on pension contributions in considering the future of the 50% rate of income tax. [72193]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor takes all relevant factors into account when making decisions on tax rates, including any decision on the 50% rate of income tax.

The Chancellor made clear in his Budget 2011 speech that the 50% rate is a temporary measure. In an age when business, capital and people are increasingly mobile, high tax rates send a negative signal to those looking to work and invest in the UK.

The Chancellor has asked HM Revenue and Customs to assess the revenue from the 50% rate of income tax. As I outlined in debates around the 2011 Finance Bill, HMRC will consider all available evidence on the impact of the 50% rate including data from 2010-11 self-assessment returns which will become available next year.

Personal Taxation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of monthly earnings is paid in taxes on average by persons in each income decile. [72031]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the proportion of earnings paid in income tax and employee national insurance contributions by hypothetical earners at the mid percentile point of each decile of the employee earnings distribution in 2011-12 are set out in the following table.

Position in earnings distribution	*Percentage earnings*			
Percentile point	*Gross earnings[1] (£ per month)*	*Income tax[2]*	*Employee NICs[2]*	*Income tax and employee NICs[2]*
5	338	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	744	3.3	2.3	5.6
25	1,109	8.8	5.5	14.3
35	1,396	11.1	6.8	17.9
45	1,671	12.5	7.7	20.2
55	1,981	13.7	8.4	22.1
65	2,351	14.7	8.9	23.6
75	2,807	15.6	9.4	25.0
85	3,461	16.4	9.9	26.3
95	5,145	23.8	7.5	31.3

[1] Decile mid percentile points show gross monthly earnings for all employees, based on Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings data to April 2010 (Great Britain), projected to 2011-12 using earnings growth assumptions consistent with the OBR's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

[2] Calculation based on an individual aged under 65 paying employee NICs (not contracted out).

Planning: Costs

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 170, on planning costs, what evidence his Department holds that shows planning costs in Britain are among the highest in the world; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any such evidence. [71934]

Justine Greening: The Plan for Growth published in March 2011 sets out the costs imposed by the planning system on business and the wider economy, and the actions the Government are taking to create a planning system that makes the right land available in the right places to deliver the commercial development, vital infrastructure and housing that the country needs while ensuring development is sustainable.

Pocket Lighters: Import Controls

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether customs officers are instructed to seize at UK ports of entry pocket lighters which do not conform to EU and UK safety standards; [72811]

(2) what information HM Revenue and Customs holds on the number of pocket lighters entering the UK which do not comply with the safety standards in Commission Decision 2006/502/EC. [72815]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency have no statutory powers at UK points of entry to seize pocket lighters and other non-food consumer products that do not conform to EU or UK safety standards.

UK product safety legislation assigns safety compliance checks at points of entry and elsewhere in the UK to local authorities acting in their statutory role as a market surveillance authority.

HM Revenue and Customs and UK Border Agency have powers to detain any suspect consignments and inform the relevant market surveillance authority, but their records do not hold information on the number of pocket lighters entering the UK which do not comply with the safety standards in Commission Decision 2006/502/EC.

Records of enforcement action taken on non compliant goods detected at UK points of entry are maintained locally by UK market surveillance authorities.

Public Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the UK's credit rating. [70866]

Mr Hoban: Standard and Poor's placed the UK's AAA sovereign rating on negative outlook on 21 May 2009. In recognition of the Coalition Government's plan to tackle the deficit, and the decisions announced in the October 2010 spending review, Standard & Poor's later revised up its UK outlook from negative to stable on 26 October 2010. All three of the major credit rating agencies have affirmed the UK's triple-A sovereign credit rating with a stable outlook. Most recently in June, Moody's stated,

> "The stable outlook on the UK's AAA rating is largely driven by the Government's commitment to stabilise and eventually reverse the deterioration in its financial strength."

Revenue and Customs: Leicester

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many unopened letters there are in HM Revenue and Customs processing offices in Leicester. [72376]

Mr Gauke: There are no unopened letters in HM Revenue and Customs processing offices in Leicester.

All inbound post is opened and date stamped with the date of receipt.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 818W, on Revenue and Customs: labour turnover, how many officers of Revenue and Customs he expects HM Revenue and Customs to recruit in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and how many of these he expects to be deployed to work on compliance functions in each year. [70156]

Mr Gauke: I have interpreted 'Officers of Revenue and Customs' as staff of all grades recruited externally who will be working on compliance functions, rather than the literal translation of staff at 'officer' grade.

In addition, as the CST announced this year, an additional 2,250 HMRC staff will move into new anti-evasion and avoidance jobs.

Our only planned external recruitment will be the annual graduate intake for people on our Grade 7 Tax Development Programme.

Our plan is to bring 210 people on to the programme starting in September 2012. All of them will be engaged on compliance work. Nominations are invited from existing staff as well as external graduates so it is impossible to say how many new recruits will be joining HMRC.

Our work force plans are not developed to a point that enables me to provide a number for subsequent programmes at this time.

Sports Clubs

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consideration he has given to applying the Gift Aid scheme to junior membership subscriptions paid to community amateur sports clubs; and what estimate he has made of the potential cost to the public purse of such a change; [72641]

(2) if he will consider the merits of extending the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme to include clubs with semi-professional players; [72642]

(3) what his policy is on establishing incentives for commercial organisations to donate to amateur sports clubs. [72643]

Justine Greening: The Sports and Recreation Alliance (SRA) produced a report in Spring 2011 recommending a number of changes to the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme. These recommendations include extending Gift Aid to junior membership subscriptions and allowing clubs with semi-professional players to register as CASCs.

I have asked officials to explore with the SRA all of the recommendations contained in their report. Changes to tax policy are announced at Budget.

The Government are keen to encourage commercial organisations to donate to amateur sports clubs and there is a tax relief available for donations to clubs that are charities. No representations have been received to introduce further incentives for commercial organisations to donate to sports clubs.

Tax Simplification

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for tax simplification. [72536]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor is committed to the ongoing process of simplifying the tax system. He set up the independent Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) last year, and has responded to their first review by announcing the abolition of 43 tax reliefs, and consulting on further abolitions. He has committed to improving HMRC's administration of IR35, and will examine reforms to integrate the operation of income tax and NICs. Further OTS reviews, to report before the 2012 Budget, are looking at pensioner taxation, approved employee share schemes and small .business tax issues, including disincorporation relief for small companies and a simpler income tax system for the smallest businesses.

Taxation: Business

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Time to Pay arrangements involving sums over *(a)* £1 million and *(b)* £5 million there have been in the last 12 months; and how many such arrangements have been subject to independent business reviews. [71197]

Mr Gauke: In the 12 months to August 2011 70 time to pay arrangements involving £1 million or more were agreed.

HMRC are unable to provide details of those cases above £5 million as the small numbers involved may breach taxpayer confidentiality.

In none of these 70 arrangements did we insist on an independent business review being prepared solely for HMRC.

Taxation: Foreign Companies

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on the size of the tax gap of the decision by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to redeploy staff from the controlled foreign companies (CFC) legacy team; how many members of staff there were in that team before the redeployment; how many have been redeployed to other work areas; where within HMRC the work they were undertaking has been transferred; and how many revenue and customs officers are working on CFC compliance. [70213]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs considers that there has been no impact on the size of the tax gap from the decision to reorganise work on current controlled foreign company (CFC) inquiries by forming a new team to undertake this work. The time spent by the advisory and operational staff previously engaged on this work as part of their wider duties has been reallocated. The advisory staff are now contributing to work on CFC reform in addition to their other existing duties, while the operational staff are engaged in additional corporation tax compliance work. Detailed information about the varying extent of the range of individual staff members previously involved in the CFC inquiry work is not available. CFC compliance work is now undertaken both by the new team and more generally remains an area of interest to all operational staff dealing with the corporation tax of international groups.

Taxation: Personal Savings

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the progress on the revised EU Savings Tax Directive; what activities have been undertaken by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department on this directive; and if he will make a statement. [70440]

Mr Gauke: The UK is disappointed that the amending savings tax directive has not yet been agreed by the Council, due to reservations by a small number of member states. The UK continues to call for early adoption of the draft directive.

Taxation: Sports

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what exemptions his Department has granted on liability to income tax attributable to income tax on *(a)* endorsement income, *(b)* prize money and *(c)* appearance money paid by non-UK resident sporting performers in each of the last five financial years; [70556]

(2) what estimate he has made of the level of revenue to the Exchequer attributable to income tax on *(a)* endorsement income, *(b)* prize money and *(c)* appearance money paid by non-UK resident sporting performers in each of the last five financial years; [70557]

(3) what his policy is on the exemption from liability to income tax on endorsement income paid to non-UK resident competitors in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games; [70558]

(4) what his policy is on the liability to corporation tax of international companies which set up a permanent establishment in the UK to perform work associated with organising the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games; [70559]

(5) if he will make an assessment of the costs to the Exchequer of the creation of exemptions for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games in respect of *(a)* corporation tax, *(b)* capital gains tax and *(c)* income tax withholdings on income paid to competitors and staff; [70560]

(6) what his policy is on the creation of exemptions for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games in respect of *(a)* corporation tax, *(b)* capital gains tax and *(c)* income tax withholdings on income paid to competitors and staff. [70561]

Mr Gauke: The Government's policy is that exemptions to taxation have been considered for major sporting events only where the event represents the highest level of world sport and when provision of those exemptions is a pre-condition of a successful bid for an event. The Government will make an assessment of any future Exchequer impacts as part of any consideration it undertakes of applying the policy on concessions for major sporting events.

Non-UK resident companies will only be chargeable to corporation tax in the UK if they trade through a permanent establishment. A temporary presence in the UK of not more than six months solely for the purpose of carrying on activities related to the major sporting event will not be treated as creating a permanent establishment in the UK.

The Government have granted exemptions from UK taxation for sportspeople competing in the 2011 UEFA Champions League Final and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. The exemptions covered income tax on appearance fees, prize money and endorsement income connected to performances at the event. The 2011 UEFA Champions League Final took place in the 2011-12 tax year, the London 2012 games will take place in the 2012-13 tax year.

Revenue from visiting sports professionals is not distinguished from that of visiting foreign entertainers in HMRC records. The information requested could therefore be obtained only through the examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Trust Funds: Audit

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the performance of the auditors of *(a)* Capita Financial Managers Ltd and *(b)* the CF Arch Cru funds. [72358]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for the regulation of financial services firms and operates independently from Government under the powers given to it in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. HM Treasury sets the legal framework for the regulation of financial services, but does not have investigative or prosecuting powers of its own.

If the FSA were to have concerns over the performance of auditors, it would as a matter of general practice refer the case to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

Tunisia: Economic Situation

Mr Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the funding pledged by the G8 for the purpose of assisting economic reforms in Tunisia to be provided. [72433]

Mr Hoban: Finance Ministers of the Deauville Partnership, including the G8 and representatives from the region, met in Marseille on 10 September 2011 to discuss the historical changes under way in some countries of the Middle East and North Africa, including Tunisia. Bilateral donors, including the G8, will work to align their support with the national strategies and priorities set out by the countries of the region.

In May 2011, the Prime Minister announced increased support to the region, called the Arab Partnership, now worth £110 million between 2011 and 2013. This assistance is focused on those committed to reform, including Tunisia, where projects have already begun, for instance improving voter education.

VAT: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses were registered for value added tax in Ashfield constituency in each year since 1997. [71732]

Mr Gauke: The existing population of VAT-registered businesses and the number of businesses that registered for VAT during the year, for years since 1997, is shown for Ashfield in the following table:

	Number	
	Start of year stock	*Registrations during year*
1997	1,630	185
1998	1,660	160
1999	1,685	190
2000	1,725	190
2001	1,750	185
2002	1,800	205
2003	1,860	230
2004	1,940	210
2005	1,970	225
2006	2,035	215
2007	2,105	210
2008	2,155	—

These figures came from the report 'Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations', published by The Department for Businesses Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in November 2008. This report has now been discontinued and so registration and deregistration figures are available only up to 2007, and start of year stock figures are available only up to 2008.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to increasing the turnover limits for VAT accounting to assist firms during adverse economic conditions. [72790]

Mr Gauke: The VAT registration threshold (the level of turnover below which a business does not have to register for VAT) was increased in the last Budget from £70,000 to £73,000. Increases are subject to EU VAT agreements and any further changes will be considered by the Chancellor as part of the annual Budget process.

Voluntary Contributions

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs received in voluntary contributions in financial year *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2009-10. [71173]

Mr Gauke: I have interpreted the hon. Members question to mean voluntary national insurance contributions.

Voluntary Class 3 national insurance contributions totalled £139.3 million in 2009-10 and are currently estimated at around £73 million in 2010-11. Figures for 2011-12 are not available.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health and Welfare Board

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that the appointment of external members to the Animal Health and Welfare Board reflects the full range of opinion relating to the health and welfare of farmed animals in intensive and traditional systems of production. [72397]

Mr Paice: The appointment of external board members is being managed in accordance with guidance from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) to ensure an equitable and transparent process. Selection criteria is based on a demonstration of personal ability across a wide range of competencies which includes expertise in all relevant sectors and knowledge of animal health and welfare.

Once appointed, external board members will collectively be responsible for actively engaging with all animal health and welfare stakeholder groups, and for articulating the differing views of such groups at meetings of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England.

Flood Insurance

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals she has to ensure that those who live in properties at risk of flooding are able to insure their possessions once the Statement of Principles comes to an end in July 2013. [70830]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working closely with the insurance industry to ensure that flood insurance remains widely available in England after the Statement of Principles comes to an end. I hosted a flood summit in September last year to discuss flood risk management and the challenges involved in flood insurance. Three working groups continued the dialogue and reported back on progress at a follow-up meeting in July this year.

DEFRA is looking in detail at a number of options for the future of flood insurance. These include the possibility of creating a risk pool and options for supporting the market by targeting information or financial assistance at those at highest risk or least able to afford insurance. We are continuing to develop these options in partnership with HM Treasury and will provide an update shortly, with the aim of reaching a final decision by the spring.

Slaughterhouses

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the regulation of abattoirs. [72396]

Mr Paice: Regulation of abattoirs (in England) is shared between DEFRA, which has policy responsibility for animal health and welfare and the Food Standards Agency (FSA), which has policy responsibility for food safety. The FSA also delivers official controls against animal health, including in relation to animal by-products (ABPs), and welfare on behalf of DEFRA.

The Government are committed to supporting and developing British farming and encouraging sustainable food production. This involves providing help to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of the whole food chain, including farms and fish industry, to help ensure a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food with improved standards of animal welfare. These principles underpin departmental policy on the regulation of abattoirs.

The welfare of animals in abattoirs is currently protected by directive 93/119 which has been implemented by The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995, as amended. This makes individual food business operators responsible for the welfare of the animals in the abattoirs they operate. Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing will replace directive 93/119/EC from 1 January 2013. The Regulation will be directly applicable in every member state. However Regulation 1099/2009 also allows member states to introduce stricter national rules to maintain welfare protection above the minimum standards provided for in the Regulation, which was in force before the Regulation was made in September 2009. Stricter national rules can also be used to introduce new protection in relation to killing animals outside a slaughterhouse, religious slaughter and farmed game. We are currently considering how Regulation 1099/2009 will be implemented and will consult on draft regulations before they are introduced. Our approach to implementation will be guided by the principles set out above and the Government's commitment to reduce regulatory burdens where appropriate.

Regulation of ABPs arising in abattoirs is covered by the EU animal by-products Regulation 1069/2009 and enforced by the FSA, which is responsible for ensuring that operators keep ABPs separate from material fit for human consumption and that ABPs are dispatched from the abattoir for safe use or disposal.

Wildlife: Circuses

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Resolution of the House of 23 June 2011, on wild animals in circuses, what steps she has taken towards banning the use of wild animals in circuses by 1 July 2012. [72794]

Mr Paice: We are continuing to explore ways of overcoming the current legal obstacles to a ban. However, given that a ban is not an immediate possibility, work is under way to develop a tough licensing regime that will stop circuses from using wild animals unless they provide appropriate welfare standards.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth Development Corporation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what dates meetings or discussions have taken place between officials from the Financial Services Authority's Enforcement and Financial Crime division and the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) on *(a)* the adequacy of CDC Group's anti-money laundering procedures and *(b)* matters arising from the CDC's investments in Nigeria. [72601]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: CDC met with representatives from the Financial Services Authority (FSA) on 11 July 2011.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been given in aid to the Democratic Republic of Congo in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what monitoring arrangements are in place in that country to ensure that all the aid is used for the purpose for which it was provided. [72595]

Mr O'Brien: The latest official figures for British Government aid to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the last five years are:

£ million

Financial year	*Total UK aid*	*DFID (share of UK total)*
2005-06	59	59
2006-07	79	75
2007-08	83	83
2008-09	100	94
2009-10	117	109

Source:
Statistics on International Development, October 2010.

Last year the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £132 million in aid for the DRC. The 2011-12 budget is £146 million. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is taken very seriously to ensure results, value for money and well managed risks. As data is limited and national systems weak in the DRC, DFID is making a significant investment to create bespoke M&E systems across its DRC portfolio. In addition to routine monitoring by programme partners and DFID staff, plans are in place for robust independent evaluations for many of our programmes to verify the results of our interventions. To boost internal capacity in this area, DFID is recruiting an evaluation adviser for its DRC office.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to Afghanistan. [71784]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) programme in Afghanistan is focusing on tackling poverty and helping Afghanistan become a stable and effective state by promoting more inclusive politics, supporting the establishment of effective local government institutions and helping communities resolve their disputes peacefully. DFID is also helping to make the country a better place for business by ensuring that small and medium sized enterprises have what they need to grow and compete. In addition we are working to support the Afghan Government to deliver basic services, such as healthcare and education, for their people. By the end of 2015, DFID support will create 200,000 jobs, provide technical and vocational education and training for 45,000 young people, help more than 100,000 children enrol in school (40% of them girls), and build or upgrade more than 47 km of road across central Helmand.

Developing Countries: Diseases

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to announce future funding for the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [72526]

Mr Duncan: The UK is ready to increase its funding to the Global Fund in order to help meet its targets.

The Report of the High Level Independent Review Panel on Fiduciary Controls and Oversight Mechanisms is due to be issued on 19 September. I expect the Board of the Global Fund, which will meet on 26 September, to take full account of the panel's report in its vision and strategy for the fund's future. The extent to which the Global Fund is able to deliver on the recommendations of the panel and define its strategy for the future will clearly be a key factor in the UK's decisions on future funding.

Equatorial Guinea: Overseas Aid

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been given in aid to Equatorial Guinea in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what monitoring arrangements are in place in that country to ensure that all the aid is used for the purpose for which it was provided. [72594]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme or any presence in Equatorial Guinea. DFID does provide support however through multilateral partners working in Equatorial Guinea such as the European Union, World Bank and United Nations.

DFID publishes the imputed UK share of multilateral aid for each country that receives official development assistance (ODA) in our annual report, which can be found on the DFID Website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The following shows the imputed UK share of multilateral net ODA for Equatorial Guinea:

Equatorial Guinea: Imputed UK share of multilateral net ODA

	UK share (£000)
2005	512
2006	1,305
2007	971
2008	296
2009	491

As a board member and shareholder of multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and UN agencies, the UK takes a strong role in the oversight of performance, results and fiduciary issues. DFID also continues to press for organisational reform in all multilaterals, monitoring their contribution to results and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Gabon: Overseas Aid

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been given in aid to Gabon in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what monitoring arrangements are in place in that country to ensure that all the aid is used for the purpose for which it was provided. [72596]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme or any presence in Gabon. DFID does provide support however through multilateral partners working in Gabon such as the European Union, World Bank and United Nations.

DFID publishes the imputed UK share of multilateral aid for each country that receives official development assistance (ODA) in our annual report, which can be found on the DFID Website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The following shows the imputed UK share of multilateral net ODA for Gabon:

	UK share (£000)
2005	528
2006	2,948
2007	888
2008	509
2009	1,286

Gabon: Imputed UK share of multilateral net ODA

As a board member and shareholder of multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and UN agencies, the UK takes a strong role in the oversight of performance, results and fiduciary issues. DFID also continues to press for organisational reform in all multilateral, monitoring their contribution to results and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Horn of Africa: Famine

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings his Department has had with representatives of the *(a)* Somali and *(b)* Kenyan community in the UK on the famine in the Horn of Africa. [71785]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Prime Minister and I visited Birmingham in July to meet members of the city's Somali community to listen to their concerns about the famine in Somalia. We discussed the substantial British aid effort and what more could be done internationally to help those suffering.

In mid-September I spoke at a community meeting in Leicester where I met a number of Somali diaspora groups including the Somali Development Services. I also gave an interview to Somali television on the UK's response to the current humanitarian crisis.

Officials from the Department for International Development have also met, and will continue to meet diaspora groups involved in the relief effort across the Horn of Africa, to share information and promote effective coordination of our efforts.

Horn of Africa: Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on aid for the horn of Africa. [71772]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Over the summer months I have spoken with a number of my European counterparts on the provision of aid to the Horn of Africa.

Specifically I have spoken with Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dirk Niebel; Ben Knapen the Development Minister of the Netherlands and Henri de Raincourt France's Development Minister, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini and Swedish Development Minister Gunilla Carlsson. At the Tidewater conference in July I also addressed Development Ministers, which included Erik Solheim, Norway's Minister of the Environment and International Development.

More recently, last Saturday at the meeting focusing on the Horn crisis at the UN General Assembly in New York, I addressed member states (including those from Europe) to stress the need for us all to do more; Argentina's Amado Boudoo, Australia's Kevin Rudd and Wayne Sean, Brazil's Guido Mantega, Canada's Jim Flaherty, China's Xie Xuren, India's Pranab Mukherjee, Indonesia's Agus Martowardojo, European Union's Olli Rehn, France's Francois Baroin, Germany's Qolfgang Schaulbe and Dirk Niebal, Italy's Giulio Tremonti, Japan's Jun Azumi, Mexico's Ernesto Cordero Arroyo, Russia's Alexet Leonidovich, Saudi Arabia's Ibrahim Abdulaziz Al-Assaf, South Africa's Pravin Gordhan, South Korea's Yoon Jeung-Hyun, Turkey's Mehmet Simsek and the US's Hillary Clinton.

The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, have also had discussions with their counterparts from a range of countries on the Horn of Africa.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the work of the Stabilisation Unit on post-conflict stabilisation activity in Libya. [71706]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Stabilisation Unit has played an important part in the British Government's response to post-conflict planning for Libya and the unit has underpinned the work of its three parent Departments—the Department for International Development; Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and Ministry of Defence—in cross-Whitehall planning for UK support to Libya's stabilisation.

The Stabilisation Unit co-ordinated the deployment of the International Stabilisation Response Team (ISRT) to Libya in May 2011 to identify and report on the immediate challenges facing the Libyan people and suggest how the international community could respond. The ISRT reported its findings to Libyan leaders and the international community in June 2011 which has helped inform their planning.

The Stabilisation Unit has also been part of cross-Government teams working on stabilisation planning and has helped recruit necessary UK technical expertise including policing and civil society experts.

Overseas Aid

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what mechanism his Department ensures that UK aid reaches those who require it. [72753]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government have introduced a new 'Aid Transparency Guarantee' which will make our aid fully transparent to citizens in both the UK and recipient countries. Aid transparency is critical to improving aid effectiveness and value for money, and reduces waste, fraud and corruption.

The creation of a new independent aid watchdog to review the effectiveness of DFID programmes has been set up. The Independent Commission for Aid Impact will scrutinise exactly how our aid money is being spent.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has established a strong set of controls to manage risk of misuse of funds. We protect our funds in three ways: by ensuing that the funds were paid to the intended recipient, that the funds have been used for the purposes agreed, and that the use of the funds has been audited.

Overseas Aid: Diseases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of aid to tackle non-communicable diseases in developing countries. [71963]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) focus remains to improve the health of the poor through support to governments and other organisations to deliver basic services and to support the strengthening of health services to deal more effectively with communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The UK is also the largest contributor to Global Alliance of Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI), and has already committed £2.3 billion. In June 2011, the UK made a further pledge of an additional £163 million per year over the next five years. Since 2000, GAVI has increased access to hepatitis B vaccination which prevents chronic liver disease and cancer that can result from hepatitis B infection. GAVI has immunised 267 million children against Hepatitis B and saved over 3,407,000 lives as a result. DFID recently launched PRIME ("PRogramme for Improving Mental Health CarE") a new research programme which will focus on the development, feasibility, acceptability and impact of mental health care packages for priority mental disorders.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his objectives are for negotiations on the next round of European Development Fund replenishment; and if he will make a statement. [72527]

Mr Duncan: The European Commission (EC) published its Communication "A Budget for Europe 2020" on 29 June 2011. This included a proposed European Development Fund (EDF) of €30.321 billion for the period 2014 to 2020.

Over the coming months, discussions on the EC's proposals are due to begin. The future of the EDF will be negotiated alongside the EU Budget. The UK's recent review of multilateral aid confirmed that the EDF was a high performer. In negotiating detailed proposals, the UK will not accept changes to the structure or focus of the EDF which might prejudice its current effectiveness.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on conflict in Somalia. [71773]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Over recent months I have talked to a number of my European counterparts on the situation in Somalia, including the impact of the conflict on the drought.

This has included discussions with Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dirk Niebel; The Netherlands Minister for Development, Ben Knapen and France's Development Minister, Henri de Raincourt. I have also met Andris Piebalgs and Kristalina Georgieva, the European Union Commissioners for Development and Humanitarian Aid respectively, and discussed Somalia with the Italian Foreign Minister, Franco Frattini and Swedish Development Minister Gunilla Carlsson.

More recently, last Saturday at the meeting focusing on the Horn crisis at the UN General Assembly in New York, I addressed member states (including those from

Europe) to stress the need for us all to do more; Argentina's Amado Boudoo, Australia's Kevin Rudd and Wayne Sean, Brazil's Guido Mantega, Canada's Jim Flaherty, China's Xie Xuren, India's Pranab Mukherjee, Indonesia's Agus Martowardojo, European Union's Olli Rehn, France's Francois Baroin, Germany's Qolfgang Schaulbe and Dirk Niebal, Italy's Giulio Tremonti, Japan's Jun Azumi, Mexico's Ernesto Cordero Arroyo, Russia's Alexet Leonidovich, Saudi Arabia's Ibrahim Abdulaziz Al-Assaf, South Africa's Pravin Gordhan, South Korea's Yoon Jeung-Hyun, Turkey's Mehmet Simsek and the US's Hillary Clinton.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Agriculture

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of white farming families in *(a)* South Africa and *(b)* Zimbabwe believed to have been the subject of direct intimidation leading to their relocation in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [72324]

Mr Bellingham: Although the number of illegal farm invasions in Zimbabwe has significantly decreased since its peak in the early 2000s, there has been an increase in the frequency of reported intimidation of commercial farmers in recent months. No precise figures are available. We continue to condemn the practice of farm invasions, which contravenes the South African Development Community ruling of November 2008 and the terms of the Global Political Agreement and demonstrates a lack of respect for the rule of law. We have and will continue to raise this issue with all sides of the Government of Zimbabwe.

There are no reliable data on the number of South African farmers who have relocated due to direct intimidation. Tackling crime in all its manifestations is a high priority for the South African Government. Crimes committed against commercial farmers, who play a vital role in the local economy providing food, security and employment, are a particular concern.

Anti-slavery Day

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has to mark Anti-slavery Day on 18 October 2011. [72110]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no plans to mark Anti-slavery Day on 18 October 2011. This event is focused at national level and the Home Office are coordinating how the Government will mark the event.

In terms of international efforts on this important issue that blights the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in our society, the UK is a strong supporter of anti-slavery efforts. At the UN Human Rights Council in September 2007, the UK set up the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Ms Gulnara Shahinian. Her mandate was renewed by consensus with an increased number of co-sponsors in September 2010. I welcomed Ms Shahinian to the UK on the UN International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on 2 December last year. We remain a strong supporter of her work. The FCO will develop plans to mark this year's UN International Day for the Abolition of Slavery closer to the time.

Libya: Intelligence

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether UK Government personnel provided information on Libyan dissidents resident in the UK to the Libyan authorities between 2003 and 2010. [70637]

Alistair Burt: It is the policy of successive British Governments not to comment on security and intelligence matters.

Armed Forces: EU Internal Relations

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on UK participation in EU structured cooperation in respect of military matters. [72525]

Mr Lidington: The UK has no plans to participate in EU permanent structured co-operation.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the level of the UK financial contribution to an EU military operational headquarters; by what means such a contribution would be funded; and if he will assess the effectiveness of such potential expenditure. [72529]

Mr Lidington: The UK will not contribute financially to a permanent EU military operational headquarters. It does make its military headquarters at Northwood available for the conduct of EU operations, such as the EU's counter-piracy operation Atalanta. We see no justification for creating a permanent EU military operational headquarters. The establishment of a permanent operational headquarters would be a duplication of proven existing capability provided by NATO, as well as EU member states, and would be an unnecessary use of resources.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [72792]

Mr Lidington: The Government remain very concerned about the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). It is now a full year since general elections were held and there is still not a new state-level Government in place. Key reforms remain stalled, holding BiH back from further progress towards EU and NATO accession. HMG remains active, with its international partners, in effort to unlock reform progress and ensure compliance with the Dayton Peace Agreement. In this context, HMG welcomed the arrival in September of the new EU Special Representative, Peter Sorensen, marking the launch of a strengthened EU presence in BiH aimed at accelerating the pace and quality of EU-related reform and supporting BiH in its effort to move towards EU membership.

British Nationals Abroad

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he holds on the number of UK nationals living in each foreign country. [72055]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We do not hold information about the numbers of UK nationals living in each foreign country. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has, in the past, sought to record this information but this practice was discontinued due to a lack of confidence in the accuracy of source information.

Council of Europe

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's priorities are for the UK's forthcoming chairmanship of the Council of Europe; and if he will make a statement. [72245]

Mr Lidington: Reform of the European Court of Human Rights will be the main priority of the UK Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, under an overarching theme of protecting and promoting human rights. Our full set of Chairmanship priorities will be published shortly before the beginning of the Chairmanship, as is the usual practice, and I will make a written ministerial statement then.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets; [72690]

(2) what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72704]

Mr Lidington: Hogg Robinson is used for the travel requirements of all Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff based in the UK. They are charged with obtaining the best fare on the day in line with the traveller's requirements and the Department's Travel Policy. In addition the FCO has negotiated fares with some airlines on designated major routes. These fares are available to our travel management company and are used as a fare ceiling.

Egypt: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has on anti-Semitism in Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [R] [72219]

Alistair Burt: The Government are committed to fighting all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including anti-Semitism. We have made clear to the Egyptian Government the importance we place on promoting cultural and religious tolerance and on eliminating all legal provisions and policies which discriminate against different religious communities. We continue to support a peaceful transition to a diverse, non-discriminatory and democratic Egypt.

Egypt: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received of the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Egypt on 9 September 2011; and if he will make a statement; [R] [72223]

(2) what discussions he has had with the government of Egypt about the protection of the Israeli Embassy in Egypt; what response he received; and if he will make a statement. [R] [72231]

Alistair Burt: The Israeli embassy in Egypt was attacked by protesters on the night of 9 September. The Prime Minister made the following statement on 10 September:

> "I strongly condemn the attack on the Israeli embassy in Cairo. We have urged the Egyptian authorities to meet their responsibilities under the Vienna Convention to protect diplomatic property and personnel, including the Israeli embassy in Cairo. They have reassured us that they take these very seriously.
>
> The Egyptian authorities have previously said that they will uphold Egypt's international agreements including its peace treaty with Israel. We welcome this and look to Egypt to honour this commitment. We urge both countries to work together to resolve current tensions and enhance regional stability".

Egypt: Politics and Government

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Egyptian authorities regarding reports that it may restore emergency law. [72195]

Alistair Burt: The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces reinstated the full powers of the emergency law on 11 September. This has been presented as a response to growing concerns about the security situation, including violent protests against the Israeli embassy in Cairo. In May 2010 amendments had been introduced to limit the application of the emergency law to terrorism and drugs crimes.

The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), called on the Egyptian authorities to end the state of emergency during their visits to Egypt earlier this year. We have urged the Egyptian authorities to replace the emergency law with counter-terrorism legislation that is compliant with international standards on human rights and fundamental freedoms, and we will continue to do so.

European Union

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 565W, on European Union, what recent progress his Department has made in its review of the EU's existing competences. [71716]

Mr Lidington: Under the coalition agreement we are committed to examining the existing balance of competences and working to limit the application of the working time directive in the United Kingdom. We police the existing limits of competence carefully; for example, we have held firm to limit the EU's exercise of its external competences.

On the working time directive, negotiations are expected to start later this month. Ministers have made it clear that the opt-out must remain workable and without burdensome constraints.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 565W, on European Union, what timetable he has set for his Department's work to review the EU's existing competences. [71717]

Mr Lidington: Under the coalition agreement we are committed to examining the existing balance of competences and working to limit the application of the working time directive in the United Kingdom. The coalition programme for government is a programme for a full term, not one year. I have been clear that my priority was to deliver on the promise to make it a legal requirement to hold a referendum before any future treaty change which transfers power or competence from the UK to the EU. That commitment was delivered in the European Union Act 2011.

Israel: Politics and Government

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Israel on *(a)* Christians in the Holy Land and *(b)* other issues for movement and access. [72531]

Alistair Burt: The Government places real importance on the right to freedom of religion for all. I visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in July, and raised the difficulties faced by Christians and in particular the impact of residency restrictions in Jerusalem.

We remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement between the west bank and East Jerusalem. It remains difficult for Palestinians, including Christians, to enter East Jerusalem.

Through our embassy in Tel Aviv and consulate general in Jerusalem, we have lobbied the appropriate authorities on the issue of movement and access. We continue to work closely with the Quartet and EU partners, and to call on Israel to ease restrictions on access.

The Minister of State, my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford delivered a speech to the International Conference on Christians in the Holy Land on 19 July 2011.

Libya: Terrorism

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on receiving compensation from Libya for those affected by IRA terrorism. [72166]

Alistair Burt: I have had no discussions with my US counterpart on this issue.

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the National Transitional Council in Libya on compensation for those affected by IRA terrorism. [72167]

Alistair Burt: The National Transitional Council's (NTC) chairman Abdul Jalil and Prime Minister Jibril have assured us that they will work with the UK to resolve bilateral issues arising from the wrongs of Qadhafi's regime. As the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), said in the House on 5 September, we are clear that compensation for those affected by IRA terrorism will be an important bilateral issue between the United Kingdom and the new Libyan authorities. I have not yet had detailed discussions with members of the NTC on this specific issue, since we have to give the NTC time to establish a new Libyan government.

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist in the recovery of compensation from Libya for those affected by terrorism. [72168]

Alistair Burt: As the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), told the hon. Member on 5 September, this will be an important bilateral issue between Britain and the new Libyan authorities.

Pitcairn Islands: Sexual Offences

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the measures in place to protect children on the Pitcairn Islands from convicted sex offenders. [72432]

Mr Bellingham: An independent review of child safety on Pitcairn was conducted in June by experts from the UK and New Zealand. The reviewers have concluded that the child safeguarding structures and policies introduced since the last review in 2009 are effective and should remain in place.

Tunisia: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the looting of synagogues in Tunisia; and if he will make a statement. [R] [72224]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of an incident in August when a synagogue in Sfax was vandalised and items stolen. Our embassy in Tunis are monitoring the security situation closely and believe that this was an isolated incident and not part of a wider trend targeting the Jewish community.

We believe this incident is part of an increase in crime in Tunisia due to the Tunisian security services having to deal with incidents of unrest and strike action across the country, as well as tensions on the border with Libya. However, the Tunisian authorities have taken a strong stance against any acts of criminality and violence, and we understand that the Tunisian security forces are taking steps to address these security challenges.

The Government are committed to fighting all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including anti-Semitism. We will continue to challenge racism and anti-Semitism and promote the human rights of all people across the world. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has called upon other states to do the same.

JUSTICE

Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Government proposes to lay before Parliament the necessary administrative orders to provide for the abolition of the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council contemplated under the Public Bodies Bill; and what provision the Government are making to ensure the full operational capability of the Council up to the date on which such orders are approved by Parliament. [72514]

Mr Djanogly: The public consultation on the proposals contained in the Public Bodies Bill will close on 11 October. If, after considering the responses, the Government confirm their intention to abolish the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council (AJTC), Ministers will lay an order before Parliament in spring 2012.

To ensure the operational capacity of the AJTC, the Department has re-appointed Council members where appropriate and will arrange for adequate funding to be in place until closure. Ministers will keep the AJTC under review until closure.

Bill of Rights Commission: European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 893W, on the Bill of Rights Commission: European Court of Human Rights, when he expects a detailed breakdown of the precise costs of the visit to be available. [72242]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The chair of the Commission on a Bill of Rights, seven commissioners and two members of the Commission's secretariat visited the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in July. The costs for the visit were as follows:

	Cost (£)
Travel (Eurostar—Standard Class)	2,334
Travel (other)	312
Hotel	1,870
Transport in Strasbourg	503
T&S	340
Total	5,359

Binyam Mohamed

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on the Detainee Inquiry of the Court of Appeal ruling on the disclosure of material in the case of Binyam Mohamed; and if he will make a statement. [70688]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Serious allegations have been made by Mr Mohamed and others about UK involvement in the mistreatment or rendition of detainees held overseas by other countries. The Government have established the detainee inquiry, under the chairmanship of the right hon. Sir Peter Gibson, a retired former Court of Appeal judge, to examine these issues independently and thoroughly.

UK national security must be protected—including from the harm that could arise from the damaging public disclosure of sensitive information. However, the inquiry will have access to all HMG papers it requires that are relevant to its examination. It will be for the detainee inquiry to choose what material is relevant to the issues it is examining. No non-sensitive material that the inquiry wishes to publish will be withheld from public disclosure. The Prime Minister has made clear that he intends to publish the inquiry's report with redactions only where necessary in order to avoid damage to the public interest. The Government have also undertaken to publish a formal response to any recommendations.

Camps: Private Land

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to create a criminal offence of illegally occupying a camp on private land; and if he will make a statement. [72617]

Mr Blunt: We have no plans to create a new offence of illegally occupying a camp on private land, though we are consulting on options for dealing with squatters in buildings.

Child Maintenance

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for failure to make payments to the Child Support Agency resulted in *(a)* a custodial sentence, *(b)* disqualification from driving and *(c)* any other conviction in the latest period for which figures are available. [71175]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many prosecutions for failure to make payments to the Child Support Agency resulted in (a) a custodial sentence, (b) disqualification from driving and (c) any other conviction in LPFA. [71175]

Failure to pay child maintenance is not a criminal offence, so parents can not be prosecuted. However, where a non-resident parent fails to pay maintenance, there are a number of enforcement actions available. Money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's earnings if the non-resident parent is employed, money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's bank or building society account, or action can be taken to recover money through the courts.

The most serious forms of enforcement are commitment to prison or disqualification from driving. The decision whether to impose these and the length of any order made, is at the discretion of a Magistrates' Court (or Sheriff in Scotland) where they are satisfied that a non-resident parent has "wilfully refused or culpably neglected" to pay child maintenance—but these are not criminal sanctions.

Child Support Agency: England Wales and Scotland civil enforcement actions

Committals	*April 2010 to March 2011*
Order to Pay only	65
Suspended Committal sentences	1,010
Committal Sentences	40
Suspended driving license disqualification sentences	165
Driving license disqualification sentences	30

Note:
An order to pay is where the Magistrate grants a custodial prison sentence, suspended on condition that the NRP makes payment.
Committal information includes both actual and suspended committal sentences and driving licence disqualifications following non payment of child maintenance

The total number of enforcement actions carried out by the Child Support Agency is routinely published on p23 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) available in the House of Commons library and at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0611.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Public Disorder

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those charged with public disorder offences since 6 August 2011 are *(a)* in employment and *(b)* not in employment. [72542]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice published available statistics on 15 September on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the August disturbances. A bulletin, titled "Statistical bulletin on the public disorder of 6th to 9th August 2011" can be found by following the link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11.htm

Information on the current employment status of those charged with public disorder offences since 6 August 2011 is not collected centrally on Ministry of Justice administrative data systems.

Community Legal Advice: Telephone Services

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on the Community Legal Advice telephone service in each year since 2004; and how many calls the service received in each such year. [72250]

Mr Djanogly: The cost of and number of calls to the Community Legal Advice Helpline, established in July 2004, is provided in the table as follows.

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*	*Number of calls*
2005-06	8.4	273,157
2006-07	12.1	387,977
2007-08	16.7	411,954
2008-09	19.1	566,085
2009-10	23.8	639,006
2010-11[1]	23.3	631,221
Total	103.4	2,909,400

[1] Figures for 2010-11 are currently unaudited.

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to make the Community Legal Advice Helpline the sole gateway to criminal legal aid services. [72252]

Mr Djanogly: We do not have any current plans to make the Community Legal Advice Helpline the sole gateway to criminal legal aid services.

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the impact assessment for the establishment of the Community Legal Advice Helpline as the sole gateway to civil legal aid services considered the cost implications to *(a)* service users and *(b)* welfare services providers of using 084 and 087 prefix telephone numbers. [72253]

Mr Djanogly: The Community Legal Advice Telephone Helpline uses a 0845 prefix number. The impact assessment identifies both monetised and non-monetised impacts on individuals, groups and businesses in the UK, including both legal aid clients and legal services providers. Paragraph 14 of the impact assessment considered the issue of the cost of calling the helpline.

In addition, paragraph 22 of Annex D of the Government Response to the consultation on the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales sets out the measures in place to minimise the cost of contacting the service. These include various call back facilities available such as call operators and specialist advisers offering to call people back, a 'text for a call back' service and an online call back request service to request a call at a time and in a language of their choice.

The impact assessment for the Advice Telephone Helpline can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/consultations/annex-d-telephone-advice.pdf

Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effects on crime rates of the reduction in funding for the Magistrates' Mock Trial competition. [71034]

Mr Djanogly: The Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition is organised by the Citizenship Foundation. Although the level of Government funding has reduced as a consequence of reduced departmental budgets, the competition continues to run.

This year HMCTS is making a grant of £25,000. In addition it is opening courtrooms at weekends and in the evenings and giving staff time. To ensure the continuation of the scheme, HMCTS is assisting the Citizenship Foundation in identifying alternative funding streams.

HMCTS has not made an assessment of the potential effects of the reduction in funding on crime rates nor would it be possible to do so.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets; [72694]

(2) what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72708]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice uses Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT) to manage its air travel requirements under contract that expires in May 2012.

CWT are contracted to access the best and most appropriate deals. They provide quarterly data comparing the deals achieved relative to market trends.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [72487]

(2) what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years; [72488]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established; [72489]

(4) what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72490]

Mr Blunt: In the Ministry of Justice, the Department's Director of Analysis also carries out the Department's chief scientific adviser role. Therefore there is no separate resource budget allocation for the office of chief scientific adviser in the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Justice was created in 2007. Our first Director of Analysis was appointed in August 2008 and remains in post. Details of her salary have been made available under the data transparency agenda on the MOJ website. It is between £85,000 and £89,999 per annum.

The Director of Analysis draws on staff within the Analytical Services Directorate and beyond as required to fulfil her remit. We do not hold information on the proportion of time spent on the chief scientific adviser's duties within the Ministry of Justice. Therefore we have no estimate of the full-time equivalent staff.

The CSA role was established in MOJ in August 2008.

We do not have a policy of requiring agencies, non-departmental public bodies or contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. Other arrangements are in place to seek this outcome.

Civil service staff in agencies and non-departmental public bodies would be expected to adhere to the Civil Service Code. The code requires them to demonstrate integrity (putting the obligations of public service above personal interests), objectivity (basing advice and decisions on rigorous analysis of the evidence) and impartiality (acting solely according to the merits of the case). We would expect this to lead to independent and robust advice to Ministers and policy makers. Where Government Analysts are in place, the various analytical professions' codes would similarly require the provision of objective, robust and impartial advice delivered to high professional standards. This would often include external peer review of products to ensure their robustness and quality.

In relation to contractors for analytical services, our standard terms and conditions require them to perform the services with reasonable care and diligence. This would include, but not be limited to, applying industry best practice, in accordance with their own established internal procedures and their compliance with any appropriate code of practices on ethical standards.

Departmental Compensation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many compensation claims were received by the Prison Service from *(a)* prisoners, *(b)* prison staff and *(c)* visitors in each of the last three years; how many of these cases were defended by the Prison Service; and how many cases the Prison Service settled out of court. [71569]

Mr Blunt: Civil litigation can take several years to resolve and the number of claims completed in any given period may not be the same as those received within the same time frame. Therefore, a full answer to the question could be obtained by interrogating hundreds of individual cases files and only at disproportionate costs.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72572]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice spent circa £12.9 million in the year 2010-11 on external solicitors and barristers. A breakdown of the average hourly rates and sums paid in each case as requested cannot be provided as this information is not held centrally or recorded in a manner that is easily retrievable to provide a full reply, it could be obtained only by manually sifting through files and invoices at a disproportionate cost. However in accordance with HM Treasury requirements all spend transactions over £25,000 are published on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/transparency-data/spend-over-25000.htm

MOJ has established a departmental-wide gateway process for authorising spend on external legal services. Business units wishing to purchase legal services of any value from suppliers other than the Treasury Solicitor or Counsel must first inform Legal Directorate who will ascertain whether the matter can be dealt with in-house, or by the Treasury Solicitor's Department. Legal Directorate assist the business area in deciding which external firms should be invited to tender from the list of accredited suppliers under Legal Services Framework Agreements available on the Buying Solutions website for the Government Procurement Services:

www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk

Government have negotiated fee rates with each of these firms which may be open to further discussion as part of contract negotiations.

Barristers are instructed through Legal Directorate from the Attorney-General's Panel of Counsel. A full list is available on the Treasury Solicitors website:

www.tsol.gov.uk/attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

London Panel Rates

A Panel: £120 per hour

B Panel: £100 per hour

C Panel: £60 or £80 per hour for under or over five years call respectively.

First Treasury Counsel advise on, and represent Government in, particularly complex and sensitive matters at an hourly rate of £220.

Regional Panel Rates

10 years' or more experience: £110 per hour

Over five years' experience but under 10: £90

Under five years' experience £60

QC rates are negotiated with the clerk and usually range from between £180 and £250 per hour.

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether, on average, private legal firms contracted to provide legal services to his Department were paid more than such firms contracted to provide comparable services for the Legal Services Commission in the latest period for which figures are available. [72757]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to make proper comparisons between the costs of legal services provided to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and those to the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The MOJ as a Government Department is able to use agreed panel rates with the Treasury Solicitor, rates which are open to all Government Departments. The LSC, as a non-departmental body, cannot use the same framework to procure its advice. However, the LSC does use the Office for Government Commerce procurement framework which represents negotiated hourly rates available to non-departmental bodies when obtaining legal services, without having to revert to negotiations with the private market. Both the Treasury Solicitor panel rates and the rates from the procurement framework are designed to deliver value for money, as both provide for rates lower than private market rates for similar services. Treasury Solicitor panel rates are available at the following website:

http://www.tsol.gov.uk/PanelCounsel/appointments_to_panel.htm

Departmental Manpower

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were employed in his Department's Ministerial Correspondence Unit in each of the last five years. [72416]

Mr Djanogly: The number of posts in the Ministry of Justice's Ministerial Correspondence Unit was as follows:

Financial year ending 31 March	*Number*
2007	10
2008	17
2009	17
2010	15
2011	15

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1131-2W, on deportation: offenders, (1) how many foreign national offenders were subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in each of the last five years; and how many foreign national offenders have become subject to MAPPA in each of the last five years; [72367]

(2) how many foreign national offenders subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) have *(a)* reoffended and *(b)* breached the terms of their MAPPA in each of the last five years. [72368]

Mr Blunt: Information on the nationality of offenders subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) is collected by the local criminal justice agencies that constitute the MAPPA Responsible Authority and is used in developing plans for managing the risks posed by offenders in the community. This information is not available centrally in the National Offender Management Service and would have to be obtained from the records of local Probation Trusts and local police forces. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency cannot provide the information requested about the number of foreign national offenders who were, or have become subject to, MAPPA in the past five years, because the date a foreign national offender becomes managed under MAPPA is not recorded on the agency's case management database. Nor can the agency provide information about the number of foreign national offenders subject to MAPPA who have reoffended or been in breach in the past five years, because the only way to obtain this information would be via a manual search. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on people with 12 points on their driving licence being given exemptions from a driving ban; and if he will make a statement. [72096]

Mr Blunt: Under the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, section 35, disqualification for a minimum of six months must be ordered if an offender incurs 12 penalty points or more within a three-year period. The minimum period may be automatically increased if the offender has been disqualified within the preceding three years. The period of a totting up disqualification can be reduced or avoided for exceptional hardship or other mitigating circumstances at the court's discretion.

Drugs: Prisons

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the use of drugs and alcohol in prisons. [72579]

Mr Blunt: The Government are committed to tackling the supply of illegal drugs and alcohol within prisons and rehabilitating prisoners from drug and alcohol dependency to drug-free lives.

As set out in our response to the Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle', we are increasing security measures in prison to reduce the supply of drugs and alcohol.

We are also piloting Drug Recovery Wings to provide short sentenced, drug dependent prisoners with continuity of treatment between prison and the community and working with health services to move to a treatment system focused on recovery which does not maintain heroin users on prescription alternatives such as methadone, unless absolutely necessary.

The current measure of drug prevalence in prisons is the random mandatory drug testing (rMDT) programme. In 2010-11 the positive rate for rMDT was 7.1%.

Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been under the provisions of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [72229]

Mr Blunt: There have been no prosecutions under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 reported to the Ministry of Justice for England and Wales, since its introduction in March 2004, up to the end of 2010 (latest available).

The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 is intended to help prevent this unacceptable practice from happening in the first place. Research suggests that a number of barriers to prosecution, including pressure from the family or wider community, lead to cases going unreported.

Following a public consultation, multi-agency practice guidelines on handling cases of female genital mutilation were published by the Home Office in March; and the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) published guidance for prosecutors on 7 September 2011.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Fly-Tipping: North-west

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for fly-tipping in each local authority area in the North West in each of the last five years. [72789]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for fly-tipping offences in the North West region from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) is given in Table 1 as follows.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) may be issued for offences of depositing and leaving litter. Information on the number of PNDs issued for these offences in the North West Region from 2006 to 2010 is given in Table 2.

Centrally held court proceedings and PND data are not available at local authority area level. Data are given in the table for the North West region broken down by police force area.

Court proceedings and PND data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for fly-tipping offences[1], by police force area, North West region, 2006-10[2, 3]

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
North West region	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Cheshire police force area	16	11	16	14	34	27	23	17	11	9
Cumbria police force area	6	5	9	9	16	16	14	11	7	2
Greater Manchester police force area	164	106	209	153	127	98	57	47	87	75
Lancashire police force area	56	40	102	60	81	59	75	57	51	39
Merseyside police force area	13	12	30	27	46	39	40	21	44	30
Total	255	174	366	263	304	239	209	153	200	155

[1] Includes offences under the following statutes:
Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.33(6)(8)(9), 34 and 59; Control of Pollution Act (Amendment) Act 1989, s.1; Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for offences of depositing and leaving litter, by police force area, North West region, 2006-10[1]

North West region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Cheshire police force area	8	4	1	3	1
Cumbria police force area	—	18	9	13	7
Greater Manchester police force area	18	43	50	61	51
Lancashire police force area	61	33	39	19	12
Merseyside police force area	134	96	97	111	138
Total	221	194	196	207	209

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Human Rights

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases of alleged overseas human rights abuses UK multinational companies were granted *(a)* conditional fee agreements and *(b)* legal aid prior to the enactment of the Access to Justice Act 1999. [72506]

Mr Djanogly: Claims can be brought in England and Wales alleging corporate harm in foreign jurisdictions. These are claims for damages in tort or contract rather than claims under the Human Rights Act or European convention on human rights. A number of such cases have been brought, but we do not hold a breakdown of their funding as between conditional fee agreements and legal aid. We understand that most of these cases concern claims for personal injury, which has been outside the scope of legal aid since April 2000 unless they are brought as part of a multi-party action with wider public interest.

The LSC cannot provide full information on the number of actions granted funding prior to the Access to Justice Act as full records are not retained.

Human Rights Act 1998

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on which dates since the entry into force of section 19 of the Human Rights Act 1998 a Minister of the Crown in charge of a Bill in the House of Commons has made a Statement under that section to the effect that, although he is unable to make a Statement of compatibility regarding the provisions of the Bill, the Government nevertheless wishes the House to proceed with the Bill; what each Bill that was the subject of the Statement was; which provision or provisions of each such Bill caused the Minister to be unable to make a Statement of compatibility; and whether each such provision was, or those provisions were, enacted. [72352]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Minister in charge of a Bill must, upon its introduction into each House of Parliament, make a statement of compatibility under section 19(l)(a), or a statement as cited by my hon. Friend under section 19(l)(b) that a statement of compatibility cannot be made.

Since this requirement came into force on 24 November 1998, only one Government Bill has, on its first introduction into Parliament, carried a statement under section 19(l)(b): the Communications Bill, which was introduced on 19 November 2002. On that occasion, the right hon. Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) made a statement as the Minister in charge of the Bill that, because of clause 309 of the Bill, she was unable to make a statement of compatibility with the Convention rights. Clause 309, which was ultimately enacted as section 321 of the Communications Act 2003, perpetuated the ban on political advertising and sponsorship in the broadcast media. The contemporary report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights on the Bill ("Scrutiny of Bills: Further Progress Report", Fourth Report of Session 2002-03, HC Paper 50) discussed further the basis for this statement.

In addition, Ministers have made a statement under section 19(l)(b) in respect of two Government Bills brought from the House of Lords, the provisions in respect of which the statements were made having been introduced by amendments in the Other Place. Upon the introduction of the Local Government Bill into this House on 13 March 2000, the Minister in charge of the Bill, the former right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull East (John Prescott), made a statement under section 19(l)(b); this was in light of the amendment agreed by the House of Lords to prevent the repeal of section 2A of the Local Government Act 1986 (as inserted by section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988), which required local authorities not intentionally to promote homosexuality. Similarly, upon the introduction into this House of the Civil Partnership Bill on 5 July 2004, the former right hon. Member for Leicester West (Patricia Hewitt) made a statement under section 19(l)(b) as result of amendments made by their Lordships that would have permitted family members to register as civil partners.

In both of these cases, the Bill in question bore a statement of compatibility under section 19(l)(a) upon its first introduction into Parliament; and in both cases, the provisions in respect of which the statements under section 19(l)(b) were made no longer formed part of the Bills when they were enacted as the Local Government Act 2000 and the Civil Partnership Act 2004 respectively.

Legal Aid Scheme

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to pay state-funded external legal services at the same rate as solicitors funded by legal aid in the same dispute. [72159]

Mr Djanogly: The state does not qualify for legal aid, and as such it cannot procure its own legal services at legal aid rates. If external legal services are engaged by the Ministry of Justice, the Department uses agreed rates through The Treasury Solicitor which are applicable to all Government Departments.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the response from the Financial Inclusion Taskforce to his consultation on the reform of legal aid. [72334]

Mr Djanogly: The response has been placed in the House Library.

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the costs incurred by his Department on state-funded defendants instructing private firms of solicitors and barristers. [72158]

Mr Djanogly: State-funded defendants cannot instruct lawyers on a private basis as lawyers are paid through legal aid. However, acquitted individuals (defendants) in criminal cases who instruct lawyers privately are currently eligible to receive their defence costs at private rates. These rates are substantially higher than legal aid rates. These costs are borne by the central funds budget for which the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), is responsible. The central funds budget has increased from £45 million in 2004-05 to £94 million in 2010-11.

The Secretary of State for Justice is taking steps to reduce central funds expenditure. The provisions of clause 52 and Schedule 6 to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, currently before Parliament, provide that: (i) acquitted individuals in the magistrates court who pay privately will remain eligible to receive their private defence costs but these costs will be capped at legal aid rates or thereabouts; (ii) acquitted individuals in the Crown court will not be eligible to receive their private defence costs because legal aid is available to all individuals in the Crown court.

These provisions are, subject to receiving Royal Assent in their current form, expected to lead to savings of up to £50 million per year in steady state by reducing the amount paid to acquitted individuals who instruct lawyers privately.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill which *(a)* remove recoverability of after-the-event insurance, *(b)* introduce damages-based agreements, *(c)* introduce qualified one-way cost shifting, *(d)* increase general damages by 10%, and *(e)* remove success fees on the number of cases involving alleged overseas human rights abuses by UK multinational companies in which victims are able to access legal redress. [72434]

Mr Djanogly: The impact assessments published alongside the Government consultation and response on implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations set out the impact of the reforms on claimants. The Government are aware of concerns about the impact of the reforms on claimants alleging overseas human rights abuses by UK multinational companies, however, we are not persuaded that there is anything fundamentally different about these types of case which would warrant an exemption from our proposals.

Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse of the reduction in funding for the Magistrates' Mock Trial competition. [71035]

Mr Djanogly: Since 2008-09 total Government funding for the Magistrates' Mock Trial competition has amounted to £180,000. The level of the grant has reduced over this period due to the need to focus on the delivery of front-line business. This year HMCTS is making a grant of £25,000.

Miscarriages of Justice: Simon Hall

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received in support of allegations of a miscarriage of justice in the case of Mr Simon Hall. [71881]

Mr Blunt: On 9 September 2011, the Ministry of Justice received an eight-page file from Mr Hall outlining the circumstances of his conviction and claiming that he had suffered a miscarriage of justice.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission has assumed responsibility for investigating alleged miscarriages of criminal justice and referring them to the relevant appeal court, where appropriate. The Criminal Appeal Act 1995 gave the Commission full powers to direct and supervise investigations, approve the appointment of officers to carry out investigations on its behalf, and to gain access to documents and other relevant materials. As the Commission is an independent body it would be inappropriate for Ministers to seek to influence its consideration of applications. It is open to Mr Hall to consider making an application to the Commission for a review of his case.

Offenders: Green Paper

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to publish all submissions to the consultation on the Green Paper entitled Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders. [67969]

Mr Blunt: The Government intend to publish a summary of the responses to the Green Paper Breaking the Cycle in the near future.

Offensive Weapons

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of possession of a bladed article where the bladed article has been used to threaten or cause fear in each of the last three years; and what the average length of sentence was. [72537]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to separately identify those specific cases where the defendant was convicted for using a bladed article to threaten or cause fear.

Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database does not include information about the circumstances behind each case, other than that which may be identified from a statute.

Prisons: Catering

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider allowing prisons to bid to provide their own catering services. [67613]

Mr Blunt: All providers of custodial services are free to provide catering themselves, or to choose the provider of their catering services from an approved list of framework suppliers. When a change to the current catering service provision is requested, a formal mini tender competition is carried out.

Prisons: Private Sector

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the maximum profit margin allowed to private companies which take over running of prisons. [70271]

Mr Blunt: Our objective in using competition for the running of prisons is to deliver more effective outcomes and to achieve better value for money for the taxpayer. The competition process is open to providers from the public, private or voluntary and community sectors. As with previous prison competitions, the profit margins achievable by private companies will be balanced against the need to ensure that their bids are sufficiently competitive.

Probation

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the National Association of Probation Officers with regard to the competitive tender in the Probation Service. [71987]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has consulted NAPO regarding the current competition to deliver Community Payback in London. This competition is the only competition currently being run for community offender service.

As part of the review of probation, announced by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), on 13 July 2011, NOMS is currently developing wider proposals on the use of competition in community offender services and the best model for delivering them. We will set out our proposals on probation reform in the autumn, at which point we will engage with wider stakeholders.

Young Offenders: Reoffending

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of young offenders leaving young offender institutions reoffend. [72076]

Mr Blunt: The table shows the one year re-offending rates for juvenile offenders (aged 10 to 17) discharged from custody (Young Offender Institutions, Secure Training Centres or Secure Children's Homes) in the first quarter of each year since 2000.

A re-offence is defined as any offence committed in the one-year follow up period proven by a court conviction or an out-of-court disposal.

As at Quarter 1:	*Number of offenders*	*Re-offending rate (percentage)*
2000	912	75.7
2001	[1]—	[1]—
2002	959	72.9
2003	786	73.8
2004	815	76.4
2005	844	73.1
2006	817	77.0
2007	778	75.3
2008	816	74.3
2009	765	71.9

[1] Data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders.

Note:

More information on the re-offending rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/reoffending/juveniles.htm

Youth Offending Teams: Redundancies

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there have been any redundancies from youth offending teams in *(a)* London and *(b)* Newham since 2010. [71346]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice are not able to give figures on redundancies from Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) as the data are not collated centrally.

YOTs are a partnership made up of representatives from the police, probation service, children's services, health, education, drugs and alcohol misuse and housing officers. YOT staff are employed by the relevant local authority and as such are not employees of the Ministry of Justice or the Youth Justice Board.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Andy Coulson

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what dates he has met Andy Coulson since his appointment. [72746]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I refer the hon. Member for Bury South to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) on 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 615-16W.

Anti-slavery Day

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to mark Anti-slavery Day in 2011. [72020]

John Penrose: The Government are fully committed to combating human trafficking by tackling organised crime groups and protecting the victims of this modern day slavery.

We published a strategy on human trafficking on 19 July, which reiterates the UK's intention to take a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking—both by focusing on tackling traffickers and maintaining effective care for victims.

The strategy also sets out our commitment to raising awareness of trafficking among the public and the private sector. The Government recognise the importance of Anti-Slavery Day as an opportunity to improve understanding and increase vigilance in our communities. Accordingly, we are planning to mark Anti-Slavery Day with a range of events including the launch of a training and referral process for the airline industry with a major UK airline.

However, DCMS has no plans to mark Anti-Slavery day itself.

Arts and Culture

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what responsibility *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Arts Council England has for the development of Government policy on the arts and culture. [72752]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I am responsible for Government policy on the arts and culture; Arts Council England is responsible for implementing that policy, as set out in its Royal Charter.

Botulinum Toxin

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take in relation to the advertising of botulinum toxin. [72524]

Mr Vaizey: None. Controls on the advertising of medicines, medical devices, treatments, health-related products and beauty products, such as Botulinum toxin, are the responsibility of the independent regulators, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Botulinum toxin is a prescription-only medicine which cannot be advertised to the public under the current Advertising Codes administered by the ASA.

Broadband

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has for private sector involvement in the creation of a world-class broadband network. [72624]

Mr Vaizey: The Government aim to stimulate private investment and delivery of superfast broadband to 90% of all premises and 2Mbps for virtually all communities by 2015. Delivery will be led by the private sector, with public funding being made available to make the necessary investment cost-effective to industry in areas where this is required.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how the UK high speed broadband balanced scorecard is being created; and when it will be published. [72632]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department is discussing with Ofcom the appropriate indicators to use and the timing of the publication of the Best In Europe Scorecard and I will make an announcement in due course following those discussions.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received from small businesses on the provision of high speed broadband. [72634]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I receive a significant amount of correspondence from all sizes of businesses and from business representative organisations regarding availability of high speed broadband.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what regulatory changes his Department proposes in respect of the roll-out of super-fast broadband in areas not served by the market. [72667]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to helping increase investment in broadband networks, partly by removing legislative or regulatory barriers. For example, we are committed to consulting on the deployment of new overhead lines which have the potential to reduce the cost of deploying new infrastructure in some hard to reach areas.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons the date for provision of universal broadband has changed. [72799]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government have announced more ambitious targets, to be delivered in a more realistic time frame and with more funding available, compared with the approach taken by the last Government.

Broadband: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Government on the allocation of funds for the rollout of superfast broadband in Scotland. [72162]

Mr Vaizey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun on 18 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 543W.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment his Department has made of the speed of the rollout of superfast broadband in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* other parts of the UK. [72230]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are supporting the Scottish Government to deliver superfast broadband to 90% of all premises in Scotland and standard broadband to virtually all communities by 2015.

With regard to the rest of the UK, the Government announced in the summer the indicative funding allocations for local authority areas in England and for the devolved Administrations to support delivery of the objective for 90% of the UK population to have access to a superfast broadband connection and for universal access to a service of at least 2 Mbps by 2015.

Five pilot projects are currently undertaking procurement, including the project in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and a further four projects are ready to commence procurement. Other areas of the country are making good progress with their plans.

Creative Industries Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what issues the Creative Industries Council will address. [72749]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Creative Industries Council will look at a wide range of issues relevant to economic growth in this sector as identified by the Industry membership. This includes, but is not limited to, the issues of skills and access to finance.

Departmental Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72684]

John Penrose: The Department uses Capita Business Travel.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72698]

John Penrose: The information is as follows:

(a) Capita Business Travel were procured via a Buying Solutions (now Government Procurement Service—GPS) framework Agreement, and it is this framework that set the contractual obligations *(b)* travellers are asked to book as far in advance as possible to get better rates. Also as this is a government wide contract, the travel company has to ensure that it is delivering the best pricing/value and these are being continually benchmarked by category managers at GPS.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72455]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not have a formal resource budget allocation for a chief scientific adviser and has not had a specific resource budget allocation over the last five years. The resource budget allocation which covers their work is the wider DCMS research budget.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72456]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport had one chief scientific adviser in the last five years, who was employed until 13 September 2010. She was a member of the Department's board until her last day of service and, as such, her remuneration details were published in the Department's Annual Accounts. This can be accessed on our website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8309.aspx

(page 72).

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72457]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not currently have, nor has it had during this period, a formal office to support the chief scientific officer. Support has been received from a civil service equivalent grade of 7 and a senior executive officer in the order of 1.05 full-time equivalent (three days a month).

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72458]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not have a specific written code of practice relating to its agency and arm's length bodies scientific evidence and advice provision, conduct and quality assurance. When using contractors for research, our policy is to ask them to adhere to the standard guidelines and principles on conducting social research. This includes the Social Research Association ethical guidelines as well as the principles developed and made available by Government Social Research.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72564]

John Penrose: The Department does not hold the information in the consolidated format you have requested. To provide it would incur disproportionate costs; but we can provide total costs paid to external solicitors and barristers, which can be found in the table.

The Department commissions external legal advice on the basis of advice provided by a team of lawyers from the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol).

Counsel is usually selected from a set of panels filled by competition and with agreed panel rates. Details of Counsel who are currently on the Treasury Solicitor's (civil) panels are available from the TSol website at:

www.tsol.gov.uk/attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

In circumstances where Counsel is selected off-panel (for example, where leading Counsel is required), nominations are sought from the Attorney-General. Fees in these cases are individually set but the nomination process ensures that higher charging Counsel are unlikely to be retained unless a very cogent business case can be made.

External firms of solicitors are chosen from panels of competitively selected firms on the basis of their ability to provide high quality, value for money legal services. The Government have negotiated fee rates with each of these firms.

The names of the external solicitors and barristers engaged by the Department in 2010-11, and the sums paid in each case, can be found in the following table. These costs are taken from the departmental legal costs budget.

(A) Firm	*(B) Barrister*	*Total (£)*[1]
Field Fisher Waterhouse		8,001.11
Charles Russell		12,634.78
	Jeremy Johnson (5 Essex Street)	729.75
	Marie Dementriou	4,025.25
	James Eadie QC	2,326.50
Withers		10,476.59
	Michael Furness QC	6,227.51
	Charles Harpurn	3,840.00
	Daniel Beard	8,349.75
	Ben Hooper	1,370.00
Linklaters		1,062,616.90
	Mr Gerard Clarke	634.50
DLA Piper		48,298.93

[1] Including VAT. *Note:* All the figures listed are inclusive of any disbursements incurred, such as travelling costs.

In the case of barristers, the above figures do not represent the personal earnings of the individuals during 2010-11. A percentage of their fees are also paid towards professional overheads.

Departmental Tuition

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has funded foreign language tuition for Ministers or officials of his Department since May 2010. [72744]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: There is no record of my Department having funded any foreign language tuition for Ministers or officials since May 2010.

Education

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future of creative education. [72793]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department, along with the Department for Education, will set out our plans for cultural education later in the year in response to Darren Henley's review into this area.

FIFA

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the reform of FIFA. [72748]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Minister for Sport met his European counterparts in February in Budapest and then on 6 September in Gdansk to discuss issues of governance, match-fixing and integrity. On each occasion he reiterated our view that international federations, such as FIFA, should reform themselves quickly and effectively. The Minister for Sport is a member of the International Olympics Committee President's High level Working Group on Corruption in Sport.

Government Art Collection

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on making the Government Art Collection available for public display. [72631]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government Art Collection (GAC) regularly lends works of art to temporary public exhibitions all over the country. Current and future exhibitions which include loans from the GAC are taking/will take place in Birmingham, Brighton, Carlisle, Chichester, Compton Verney, Durham, Edinburgh, Penzance and Stratford-on-Avon.

In 2011-13 the GAC is holding a series of 5 displays at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London which will include nearly 200 GAC works of art. These will tour as a single unit to Birmingham 16 November 2012 to 24 February 2013 and Belfast 15 March to 9 June 2013.

Additionally, the vast majority of the GAC's holdings are accessible online via its website. All the GAC's paintings (up to the end of 2007) are included in the Public Catalogue Foundation's volume on the GAC (2008) and on the BBC/Public Catalogue Foundation's "Your Paintings" website, and this year the GAC published a book, "Art, Power, Diplomacy: The Untold Story of the Government Art Collection". The GAC gives tours of its premises to organised groups approximately three times per month and is open to the public during both the annual Culture 24 Museums at Night and Open House weekends. GAC staff also give public lectures, when requested, to organisations outside London.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many items in the Government Art Collection are in storage. [72635]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Of over 13,500 works in the Government Art Collection 4,571 are currently not on display and are available for selection and display. Of these 382 are awaiting installation at already selected specific venues and 26 are being either restored or reframed. Given the nature of the collection these figures are continually changing.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many items in the Government Art Collection are on display in locations outside Greater London. [72636]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: In the UK, 352 Government Art Collection items are on display in locations outside Greater London (including 29 on temporary exhibition and loans to non-Her Majesty's Government's buildings) and 5,194 are abroad. Given the nature of the collection this figure regularly changes.

Intellectual Property

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he last met the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss the Hargreaves Review of intellectual property. [72633]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I meet the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support in each category local enterprise partnerships in (i) the East Midlands, (ii) the East of England, (iii) London, (iv) the North East, (v) the North West, (vi) the South East, (vii) the South West, (viii) the West Midlands and (ix) Yorkshire and the Humber have given to the creative industries since the inception of each partnership. [72654]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government encourage any work undertaken by Local Enterprise Partnerships to support the creative industries in their area but does not record the information specified.

Mass Media: Ownership

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the Government plans to submit evidence on the issue of *(a)* media ownership and *(b)* press regulation to the Leveson inquiry. [72800]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: If we are approached for information or to give evidence, we shall co-operate fully with any requests.

Music

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what monitoring his Department carries out of the provision of local music services. [71660]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Education has contracted with the Federation of Music Services (FMS) to monitor and report on the use of the Government's Music Education Grant, which is paid to local authorities. The FMS also administers this grant on behalf of the Department.

In return for their funding, local authorities are required to report on: the nature of the music education services they provide, including data on the number of schools and children receiving free first access instrumental tuition; the number of children continuing instrumental tuition after first access; the number of ensemble opportunities offered to pupils; and the level of funding local authorities themselves contribute towards music education.

The FMS reports back to the Department on a regular basis, highlighting both problems and best practice.

National Lottery: Tickets

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of any assessment his Department has made of the geographical distribution of the purchase of lottery tickets. [71869]

John Penrose: The Department makes no assessment of the geographical distribution of the purchase of lottery tickets. The national lottery operator, Camelot, and their regulator the National Lottery Commission (NLC), ensure that total sales figures broken down by game type, week by week, are made available on a monthly basis with quarterly sales reports providing some additional commentary, the link to the agreed reporting timetable for this financial year and links to the reports can be found on the NLC website here:

http://www.natlotcomm.gov.uk/regulating-the-lottery/sales-reporting

The national lottery operator believes that the geographical breakdown of national lottery sales information is commercially sensitive information, particularly given the development of the gambling and lottery markets in recent years. In the interests of transparency, we are looking into this further and, in the meantime, I will ask the chief executive of Camelot to write to the hon. Lady.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the outcome of the London 2012 Olympics test events. [72628]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: To date, the staging of test events for London 2012 has been a notable success. Feedback from International Sport Federations has been very positive and the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is already addressing the learning areas captured in this first series in readiness for both Games-time and the next series of test events, which started in early October. The public has also responded with enthusiasm to the events, with large turnouts rewarded by considerable British sporting success.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of progress on the Government's objectives for a sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympics. [72747]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I am confident that the London 2012 games will leave behind a significant sporting legacy. We will support elite sport by maintaining public funding for Olympic and Paralympic sport going into the Rio 2016 cycle. We've set out an ambitious programme of bids for major sporting events, with the 2013 Triathlon World Series Final and 2015 Canoe Slalom World Championships secured in Olympic venues, Weymouth and Portland bidding for the World Cup in sailing and the Major Prize of the 2017 World Athletics Championships to be decided in November. Olympic venues and investment in training facilities will support local communities after the games. We are preserving Whole Sport Plans and holding sports to account on meeting challenging participation targets. More than a thousand local sports clubs and facilities will be improved, the nation's playing fields protected, and 40,000 new community sports leaders recruited to get more people playing sport through our mass-participation strategy, Places People Play. This will also have a specific disability sport strand.

The new school games will give every school and pupil the opportunity to take part in more competitive sport, with opportunities for disabled children and young people to participate in each level of the competition. In addition, the Change4Life sports clubs will allow more young people to try a wider range of sports, giving young children their start to enjoy a lifetime's habit of playing sport.

Our legacy plans will even change lives abroad through the ground-breaking International Inspiration programme which helps to increase sports opportunities in 17 countries and has reached over 10 million young people in 16 countries.

Olympic Games 2012: Conditions of Employment

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that branded merchandise that has been manufactured by children working in sweatshops or otherwise unacceptable working environments is not sold during the London 2012 Olympics. [72137]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a private company operating independently of Government, responsible for staging the games including the licensing and merchandising.

LOCOG places a high priority on environmental, social and ethical issues when procuring goods and services needed for the games, and explicitly rules out the use of child labour by all of its suppliers. LOCOG has put in place effective supply chain assurance arrangements, by developing a Sustainable Sourcing Code which all licensees are contractually bound to abide by. The code can be found at london2012.com/publications

http://www.london2012.com/about-us/publications/index.php

The code requires licensees to disclose to LOCOG the locations of factory premises used to produce London 2012 products, to register these premises on the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange (Sedex) and to comply with the Ethical Trading Initiative's Base Code (which covers labour conditions, trade union membership, non-discrimination and child, labour).

Olympic Games 2012: Dorney Lake

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local media outlets receive media accreditation for the London 2012 Olympics events at Dorney Lake. [72094]

Hugh Robertson: The British Olympic Association (BOA), as the National Olympic Committee for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is responsible for allocating accreditation for the Olympic games for media based in the United Kingdom. The British Paralympic Association (BPA), as the National Paralympic Committee, is similarly responsible for UK media allocation to the Paralympic games. The process for the Paralympic games has yet to be finalised.

I understand from the BOA that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has awarded the BOA far more accreditations than in the past and more accreditations than any other National Olympic Committee. Over 3,000 applications have been received for the approximately 400 accreditations available.

To assist with the allocation process, the BOA established a Media Accreditation Committee composed of representatives from a broad spectrum of the written and photographic press respected for their knowledge and experience from Olympic games or understanding of the UK media.

For 2012 the IOC awarded BOA the following number of accreditations:

	Number
Journalist	270
Photographer	80
Sport specific journalist	20
Sport specific photographer	20
Support staff	8
Technician	12

When determining the allocation of accreditations BOA has taken into account, among other things, continuous editorial commitment to Olympic sport throughout the four-year Olympic cycle; history of attending Olympic games; circulation numbers; publication frequency. Throughout this process the BOA's primary purpose has been to ensure that the allocations made are fair given the limited number of accreditations available. The Press Association has been appointed by the IOC as the National Host News Agency for the London 2012 Olympic games (and has also been appointed by the International Paralympic Committee as the National Host News Agency for the 2012 Paralympic games) to service the local and regional press in the UK and they have committed to covering every British athlete at the games. The BOA has also agreed that regional written and photographic press who applied for accreditation should benefit from a small number of passes to be allocated on a pool basis. The distribution of these will be decided by the BOA with guidance from the Newspaper Society, in consultation with regional publishers. The Newspaper Society will be in touch with representatives of regional newspaper groups in the next few months to set up a meeting to discuss practical arrangements over operation of the pool.

I will shortly be writing to the BOA on this matter and I will ensure the outcome of this correspondence is passed on to my hon. Friend.

Olympic Games 2012: East London

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings he has had with the Mayor of London on the economic legacy for east London of the London 2012 Olympics. [72640]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have regular meetings with the Mayor of London on matters connected with London 2012 and its legacy. The Mayor is responsible for the legacy for East London which is why Government are legislating to enable him to set up a Mayoral Development Corporation to drive the regeneration of the area and its economic legacy post-games.

Olympic Games 2012: Equipment

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has for the equine-specific equipment purchased for the London 2012 Olympics after the conclusion of the games. [72581]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a private company operating independently of Government, responsible for staging the games. LOCOG will hire the majority of sports equipment it requires, however there will be some sports equipment purchased. LOCOG is talking to National Governing Bodies (NGBs) about donation of this equipment post-games, including the British Equestrian Foundation (BEF). Next year LOCOG will finalise what equipment this is likely to include and will agree this with the NGBs, including BEF. LOCOG must of course balance its overall budget.

Rugby

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on amateur rugby of hosting the Rugby World Cup in 2015. [72357]

Hugh Robertson: Recent research by UK Sport says that two-thirds of live spectators at major events are inspired to participate in the sport. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is committed and determined to ensure that enthusiasm is properly harnessed in 2015 producing a domestic and international legacy from the tournament. The RFU has set up eight Regional Legacy Boards to lead this drive ensuring that amateur rugby across the country benefits from hosting the World Cup on home soil. The legacy plans are to start right away.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support his Department (i) has provided and (ii) plans to provide for preparations for hosting the Rugby World Cup in 2015; and if he will make a statement. [72374]

Hugh Robertson: The Government have provided a financial guarantee for the Rugby World Cup should the tournament not generate sufficient revenues. It has also provided a number of other guarantees in areas such as security, visas, anti-doping and customs controls necessary to stage the competition.

UK Sport also supported the hugely successful Women's Rugby World Cup in 2010. The support being provided to the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is on the basis that they will hold a tournament which reflects the diversity of the nation and invest all profits in grassroots rugby or social programmes such as Hitz.

Sculpture: Abingdon Green

Mr Doran: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the care and maintenance of the Knife Edge-Two Piece by Henry Moore on Abingdon Green accepted as a gift to the nation by the Government in 1967. [72196]

Mr Vaizey: My Department is not generally responsible for the maintenance of public sculptures but is keen to see them properly maintained. I understand that the problem with Knife Edge Two Piece has been compounded by the fact that it has been difficult to identify who is responsible for the care and maintenance of the work.

The House of Commons has an excellent Advisory Committee on its works of art, chaired by the hon. Member for Aberdeen North and I would propose that the matter should be referred to his Committee to allow the House to consider whether it would be willing to take on the ownership and duty of care of this sculpture. In suggesting this, I am aware that the House of Commons has its own professional curatorial staff who would provide the very finest levels of care for the sculpture.

Sport

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what targets he has set for increased participation in sport in England. [72629]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We are determined to get more people playing sport. Part of that will be making it clear to sports governing bodies that we expect concrete results in return for Government investment. I have already written to all NGBs emphasising that funding will be decreased or may cease altogether for organisations that fail to achieve their objectives.

We have already introduced the School Games, Sport England has a £136 million lottery funded legacy programme in place and we are reviewing, with Sport England, how to increase the number of young people playing sport.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to promote community and grassroots sport. [72751]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We are preserving Whole Sport Plans and holding sports to account on meeting challenging participation targets. Through our mass-participation programme, Places People Play, more than a thousand local sports clubs and facilities will be improved, the nation's playing fields protected and 40,000 new community sports leaders recruited to get more people playing sport. This will also have a specific disability sport strand.

The new School Games will give every school and pupil the opportunity to take part in more competitive sport, with opportunities for disabled children and young people to participate in each level of the competition, in addition the Change4Life Sports clubs will allow more young people to try a wider range of sports, giving young children their start to enjoy a lifetime's habit of playing sport.

Sports Clubs

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of sports clubs using community asset transfers; [72647]

(2) how many sports clubs have successfully completed the transfer of a community asset in the last 12 months. [72648]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: This information is not collated by the Department; however, Sport England is aware of the increased popularity of community asset transfers. Sport England has been working closely with the Asset Transfer Unit to develop a range of support tools and resources aimed at sports clubs, national governing bodies and local authorities. In addition, the Localism Bill includes provisions to give community groups more opportunity to bid to take over assets listed as an Asset of Community Value, if they are made available for sale.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the effect of philanthropic giving on amateur sports clubs. [72651]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department does not hold this information. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs advise that sports clubs that have registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs have benefited from £9.1 million of gift aid relief since 2002.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will assess the effect of deregistration requirements on the number of community amateur sports clubs; [72652]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to make it easier for sports clubs to leave the Community Amateur Sports Clubs scheme in circumstances where they no longer derive benefits or become ineligible. [72653]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Sport and Recreation Alliance's Red Tape review identified deregistration requirements as a barrier preventing clubs from registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs. The Minister for Sport and the Olympics, the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson), has written to Her Majesty's Treasury to request that an easier exit strategy be found should a club no longer benefit from the scheme.

Community Amateur Sports Clubs

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what measures his Department is taking to promote the Community Amateur Sports Clubs scheme. [72630]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Sport and Recreation Alliance (SRA) has already re-launched the Community Amateur Sports Clubs scheme (CASCs) and Sport England is funding Running Sports to develop new training sessions for CASCs.

The SRA looked at the issue of CASCs in the Red Tape review commissioned by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson), who has written to Her Majesty's Treasury to raise various issues on CASCs, including a request to consider allowing CASCs to claim Gift-Aid on junior subscriptions.

Sport: Local Government Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effect on community and grassroots sport of changes in Government funding to local authorities. [72758]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have regular conversations with Department for Communities and Local Government colleagues in relation to sport. Through Whole Sport Plans, Sport England is investing £480 million through 46 national governing bodies between 2009 and 2013. The governing bodies work closely with their network of sports clubs to invest funding at a local level, in addition, the mass participation Olympic Legacy-Places People Play, will provide funding opportunities for sports clubs with £10 million for playing fields and £50 million for community sports facilities.

Sport: Young People

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review on participation in sport at youth level. [72627]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As a result of the Government's changes to the National Lottery, Sport England will see its funding increase by 14% over the spending review period. Up to £35.5 million of lottery funding from Sport England is being invested into the development of the School games, which will give more young people the opportunity to compete in competitive sport. This investment alongside our plans for an Olympic and Paralympic sporting legacy will provide more opportunities for more young people to participate in sport.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what analysis he has undertaken of recent trends in the level of participation in sport by young people. [72638]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Data from the latest Taking Part survey shows that 90% of children (aged five to 15) had taken part in sport in the four weeks prior to being surveyed.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what change the Government expects in levels of participation in competitive sport by young people during the comprehensive spending review period. [72639]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Sport England is investing up to £35.5 million of Lottery funding from now until March 2015 in the School Games which is a key part of the Government's plans for a lasting sporting legacy from hosting the London 2012 Games. All children in participating schools will have the opportunity to take part.

Swimming: Concessions

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of *(a)* the provision of and *(b)* the removal of provision of free swimming on (i) the over 60s and (ii) the under 17s. [72543]

Hugh Robertson: We have made no such assessment. However, in April 2009 the Department commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to undertake an independent evaluation of the Free Swimming Programme (FSP). This evaluation report, published in June 2010, found that the FSP did not represent good value for money, particularly as the report found that 83% of over 60s and 73% of those aged 16 and under would have gone swimming anyway, even if they had to pay. The analysis has also found that the costs of the scheme outweighed the health benefits. Full details of this evaluation can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/FSPyear1_main_report.pdf

Sport England is investing £20.8 million into the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) over the period 2009-13 to grow and sustain participation in swimming. The ASA are working closely with key local authorities to drive increases in participation across all age groups.

Television Channels: Licensing

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to Ofcom's report on the licensing arrangements for Channels 3, 4 and 5. [72745]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I will announce my response as soon as I am able. I wish to take the opportunity of the Communications Review to give this matter proper consideration.

Television: Local Broadcasting

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what regulatory changes he plans to make in respect of the introduction of local television. [72533]

Mr Vaizey: As set out in the framework for local TV consultation paper, the Government intend to lay three orders to: reserve a block of geographic interleaved spectrum across the UK for use by local services; create a new local licensing regime for local TV and; secure appropriate electronic programme guide prominence for newly licensed local TV services on digital terrestrial television.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport upon what timetable he plans to establish the Framework for Local Television under the Local Media Action Plan. [72534]

Mr Vaizey: It is expected that the Government will lay the necessary legislation by the end of this year and, subject to parliamentary process, Ofcom will consult on and award the new local television licences during 2012. The first local licences are expected to be awarded in 2012 with the first services expected to begin broadcasting in 2013.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what local content other than news and current affairs he expects of local television. [72535]

Mr Vaizey: Content shown by local services will be for local operators and the market to decide. It should reflect the individual needs and interests of the communities served.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects the first group of new local TV stations to begin broadcasting. [72750]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The first local services are expected to commence broadcasting in 2013.

Television: Young People

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on programmes targeted at young people in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07, *(d)* 2007-08, *(e)* 2008-09, *(f)* 2009-10 and *(g)* 2010-11. [71562]

John Penrose: Significant programmes run by this Department since 1995 which will have particularly benefited young people are:

£

Programme	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
UK Schools Games	—	—	6,000,000	490,000	10,000	725,000
Youth Mentoring	—	616,599	708,181	666,333	666,000	643,436
Change 4 Life	—	—	—	—	3,380,000	750,000

£

Programme	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Children's Play	500,000	498,009	502,140	514,128	508,719	475,163
Youth Dance	—	—	—	100,000	100,000	95,000
Music Rehearsal Spaces	—	—	—	—	72,434	367,630
Free Swimming (for under 16s)	—	—	—	—	21,730,799	6,688,189
Total	500,000	1,114,608	7,210,321	1,770,461	26,467,952	9,744,418

Young people have also benefited from a range of schemes administered by arm's length bodies but we do not hold centrally the data for these. Schemes paid directly by the Department and by arm's length bodies included funding contributions from other Government Departments.

Tourism: Economic Situation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how his tourism strategy will promote economic growth. [72637]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The tourism policy, published in March, includes a range of proposals to help tourism achieve its potential as a central part of Britain's growth strategy. These include initiatives which will help us to capitalise on the Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major events in 2012, increase domestic tourism and improve productivity.

For example, over the next four years VisitBritain will be overseeing the "You're Invited" programme, which will make the most of the international interest in the recent royal wedding, as well as next year's Diamond Jubilee celebrations as well as the Olympic and Paralympic Games, showcasing Britain to the world. The programme aims to attract 4 million extra visitors, spending an additional £2 billion in the UK economy, which will support businesses, jobs and growth. The programme is backed by a £100 million marketing fund, funded by the public and private sector.

VisitEngland is working closely with local areas and destinations, in line with Government's localism agenda, to grow the value of local tourism economies. They are also currently working on a marketing campaign with destinations across the country, to deliver economic growth from the domestic market, and to support employment and job creation. This will maximise the impact of the unique events of 2012, helping to spread the benefits of the Games outside London and maintain a legacy of domestic tourism growth.

We will also help the industry to improve staff and management skills and prepare for changes in technology and information provision, cut red tape and identify sector specific rules and regulations that are holding the industry back, and improve our visa processes and visitors first experience when they arrive in the UK.

UK Film Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what savings have been made from the abolition of the UK Film Council. [72798]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I refer the ho. member to the answer I gave him on 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 753W.

EDUCATION

Academies

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 351W, when he expects the second round of applications to open for the fund for 2011-12 that will be targeted mainly towards academies' building condition needs. [67266]

Mr Gibb: We have decided to retain the remainder of the 2011-12 fund in order to ensure funds are available to address urgent and unexpected capital maintenance needs in academies. Academies should discuss such needs with their liaison officer in the Young People's Learning Agency in the first instance.

On 19 July, we announced details of the Government's initial response to Sebastian James's independent review of capital, and this will inform the shape of future arrangements for allocating capital funding to academies. Significantly, we have committed to carrying out a condition survey of the schools estate, to enable a fairer distribution of available funding in the future.

We also announced the launch of a new privately-financed school building programme to address those parts of the schools estate in the worst condition. The programme will be open to academies, schools and local authorities, and is expected to cover between 100 and 300 schools. Further details can be found at:

https://sharepoint.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/PSBP/

Academies: Bromley

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which secondary schools in the London borough of Bromley have converted to academy status in 2011 to date; what the operative date is in each case; who the partner is in each case; and what staff changes are planned for the posts of *(a)* headteacher, *(b)* deputy headteacher, *(c)* other teaching staff and *(d)* other staff in each case. [71669]

Mr Gibb: As of 1 September, 14 secondary schools in the London borough of Bromley have converted to academy status in 2011. Of these, three schools—Beaverwood School for Girls, Bishop Justus Church of England School and Coopers Technology College—opened as academies in March 2011. Six schools—Charles Darwin School, Hayes School, Langley Park School for Boys, Newstead Wood School for Girls, Ravens Wood School and The Ravensbourne School—opened as academies in April 2011. The Bullers Wood School opened as an academy in May 2011. Two schools—Langley Park School for Girls and St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar School—opened as academies in August. The two remaining schools—Cator Park School and Kelsey Park Sports College (now known as the Harris Academy Beckenham)—opened as academies in September and are in a formal partnership with the Harris Federation.

As autonomous bodies, personnel issues, including the recruitment and retention of staff, are matters for the Academy Trust.

Academies: Warwickshire

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which primary schools he expects to become academies in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* Warwickshire in the 2011-12 academic year. [70365]

Mr Gibb: At present, no primary schools in Coventry or Warwickshire have applied to convert to academy status; this may, however, change over the course of the academic year. Four primary schools in Coventry and eight primary schools in Warwickshire have already expressed an interest in converting. Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010-11, can be found on the DFE academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesof schools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Anti-slavery Day

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to mark Anti-slavery Day 2011. [72087]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education and the Home Office are marking Anti-slavery Day with the launch of new guidance entitled 'Working together to Safeguard children who may have been trafficked'. The guidance will raise awareness of the issues amongst agencies in England who are likely to encounter, or have referred to them, children and young people who may have been trafficked.

The Government are fully committed to combating human trafficking by tackling organised crime groups and protecting the victims of this modern day slavery.

The Government published their strategy on human trafficking on 19 July. The strategy reiterates the UK's intention to take a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking—both by focusing on tackling traffickers and maintaining effective care for victims.

The strategy also sets out our commitment to raising awareness of trafficking among the public and the private sector. The Government recognise the importance of Anti-slavery Day as an opportunity to improve understanding and increase vigilance in our communities.

Children: Care Homes

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many looked-after children were placed in *(a)* homes and hostels (i) subject and (ii) not subject to children's homes regulations, *(b)* foster placements and *(c)* other arrangements by another local authority in each local authority area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [71251]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 September 2011]*: Information on the number of looked-after children who were placed in *(a)* homes and hostels (i) subject and (ii) not subject to children's homes regulations, *(b)* foster placements and *(c)* other arrangements by another local authority in each local authority area for the years 2009 and 2010 only, has been placed in the House Libraries. Information for the three years prior to 2009 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children aged between *(a)* 0 and five years, *(b)* six and 10 years and *(c)* 11 and 16 years were placed in (i) homes and hostels (A) subject and (B) not subject to children's homes regulations, (ii) foster care and (iii) other arrangements by another local authority in each local authority area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [71252]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 September 2011]*: The requested information for the years 2009 and 2010 only has been placed in the House Libraries. For completeness information has also been included for children aged 17 years and over. Table 1 includes information for 2009; table 2 includes information for 2010. Information for the three years prior to 2009 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Crimes of Violence

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will *(a)* assess the United Nations Global Survey on Violence against Children conducted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and *(b)* place a copy of his assessment in the Library. [72409]

Tim Loughton: The Department is now considering the United Nations Global Survey on Violence against Children. A copy of any Government response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Children: Hyperactivity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the incidence of *(a)* attention deficit disorder and *(b)* hyper-activity among school pupils in the last 15 years. [72128]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not collect annual data that record the incidence of attention deficit disorder or hyperactivity among school pupils. The most recent data collected on the mental health of children and young people, 'Mental Health of Children and Young

People in Great Britain 2004', put the incidence of hyperactivity disorder among children and young people in Great Britain aged five to 15 at 1.5%.

Children: Respiratory System

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the number of children who did not attend sports lessons as a result of respiratory illnesses in the last year for which figures are available. [72326]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect this information from schools.

Children's Centres: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department plans to allocate to children's centres in each of the next four years. [71903]

Sarah Teather: Since April 2011, funding for children's centres is included within the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). The allocation for 2011-12 and the indicative allocation for 2012-13 are shown in the following table. Funding beyond March 2013 is subject to future spending reviews.

The EIG is an un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream that gives local authorities flexibility to target resources strategically and to intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It is up to local authorities to judge how best to use this funding in consultation with local communities, taking account of local need and evidence of what is most effective. Local authorities have statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to provide sufficient children's centres to meet local need so far as is reasonably practicable, and to ensure there is consultation before opening, closing or making significant changes to services through children's centres.

Early Intervention Grant

	£
2011-12	2,222,555,697
2012-13	2,307,199,996
Total	4,529,755,693

Children's Play: Training

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on requiring those seeking to *(a)* establish and *(b)* find employment with children's playschemes to achieve the same qualifications as those working in educational children's programmes. [68510]

Sarah Teather: Play settings that provide care for children aged between birth and the academic year in which they turn five need to meet the staff-to-child ratios and qualification levels required by the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. Play settings that provide care for children who are aged over five and are on the General Childcare Register need to meet the requirements set out in the General Childcare Register Regulations 2008. Subject to those requirements, the Government believe that the play work sector is best placed to determine the training and development needs of its work force.

Curriculum: Animal Welfare

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to include animal welfare in the personal, social, health and economic curriculum. [72016]

Mr Gibb: The review of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), which was launched on 21 July 2011, will identify the core body of knowledge that pupils need, as well as ways to improve the quality of teaching. In addition to considering the submissions of evidence and good practice the review will also evaluate the existing research available on PSHE education and its teaching. We welcome representations, including evidence, which can be submitted up to the end of November 2011. The consultation website can be accessed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/

Departmental Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72686]

Tim Loughton: The Department uses Carlson Wagonlit Travel Ltd to purchase airline tickets.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years; [72448]

(2) what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [72447]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established; [72449]

(4) what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72450]

Tim Loughton: The information is as follows:

(i) In the Department for Education, the role of chief scientific adviser is carried out by the full-time director of research and analysis. Her basic salary was between £85,000 and £89,999 in 2010-11, and is expected to be between £85,000 and £89,999 in 2011-12. The Department publishes information about the salaries of senior civil servants on its website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmental information/transparency/b0065313/disclosure-of-scs-posts-and-salary-information

The post of chief scientific adviser was established in the Department in 2005. Three people in the Department have held the post of chief scientific adviser in the last five years. The current director of research and analysis, encompassing the chief scientific adviser role, was appointed to the post in August 2008. Prior to that, it was filled on a temporary basis for 11 months, following the departure of the previous chief scientific adviser, and chief economist, in September 2007.

(ii) Our chief scientific adviser does not have a specific chief scientific adviser's office. There is no specific budget for the chief scientific adviser role. The role is carried out as part of the duties of the director of research and analysis.

(iii) Although there is no specific office supporting the chief scientific adviser, there are approximately 0.15 FTE staff supporting the director of research and analysis in carrying out the chief scientific adviser role.

(iv) The Department is committed to providing scientific advice in accordance with the Government chief scientific adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making". All of our analysts are bound by the civil service code and its core values of integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality. Commitment to these values is required of all members of the home civil service.

(a) The Department's arm's-length bodies (ALBs), formerly known as non-departmental public bodies, have their own standards and principles which they apply locally to ensure analytical evidence is robust. Where they have produced official statistics, they have been bound by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) Code of Practice for Official Statistics. A number of activities will be transferring from these ALBs to four new Executive agencies in the Department by April 2012, under the departmental reform programme. The Executive agencies will be bound, as appropriate, by the UKSA Code of Practice for Official Statistics

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html

and the Government social research code

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/networks/gsr/gsr-code

(b) The Department ensures that all of its research and evaluation contractors have suitable systems and processes to ensure that appropriate standards for the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice are met. Potential contractors are required to clearly state in their tenders which codes of practice or protocols they are bound by, these are then considered by the Department's project manager when they are evaluating the tenders. Once a contractor is appointed their work is overseen by a professional Government analyst to ensure quality standards are maintained.

The Department's social researchers, who manage most of the Department's externally commissioned research and evaluation projects, are bound by the Government social research (GSR) code which sets out specific principles to guide the work and behaviour of Government social researchers. The GSR code brings together professional standards and departmental/devolved Administration guidance under seven key principles. Adherence to the code ensures high quality research and analysis for policy and operational delivery research, and analysis that is scientifically rigorous, relevant and valued.

The Department's contractors who are involved in the processing of data that support statistical publications are bound by principles within the UKSA code where relevant, for example regarding how they handle and store data to ensure security and prevent early release of statistics.

The largest volume of statistical releases and outputs related to my Department's areas of responsibility are produced by or in association with professional statisticians working within the Department itself, who act in accordance with the UKSA code of practice:

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html

Where statistical releases have been assessed by UKSA for compliance with the code their designation as National Statistics compliant with the code has been confirmed.

Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66319]

Tim Loughton: Information for the number of staff recruited to and released from the Education Family workforce (the Department and its arm's-length bodies) is set out in the following table:

Name	*Number of staff recruited since May 2010*	*Number of staff released since May 2010*
Department for Education	71	178
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)	0	207[1]
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	291	121
Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)	0	11
General Teaching Council for England (GTCE)	6	0
National College	7	23
Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)	17	1
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)	25	0
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)	123	27
Partnerships for Schools (PfS)	5	21
Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)	0	140
School Food Trust (SFT)	1	18
Training and Development Agency (TDA)	14	21

Name	*Number of staff recruited since May 2010*	*Number of staff released since May 2010*
Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)	52	0

[1] BECTA is now closed.

Note:

The total cost of all releases (248) was £5.6 million.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any complaints from officials of his Department have been received in respect of his political advisers since May 2010. [71390]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Since May 2010, officials in the Department have no record of receiving any complaints in respect of its political advisers.

Dominic Cummings

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when Mr Dominic Cummings started work at his Department; and whether he is still employed. [72313]

Tim Loughton: Dominic Cummings joined the Department for Education on 21 February 2011 and is still employed.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education who the members are of the volatile substance abuse stakeholders group; when the group last met; and when it next plans to meet. [70458]

Sarah Teather: The volatile substance abuse steering group was established under the previous Administration. It last met in November 2009 and there are no plans to reconvene the group.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment his Department has made of the work of *(a)* hospital trusts, *(b)* voluntary organisations and *(c)* local education authorities concerning the prevention of volatile substance abuse. [70460]

Sarah Teather: No recent assessments have been made concerning the prevention of volatile substance abuse. Department for Education research published in February 2011 looked at the costs and benefits of specialist drug and alcohol services for young people. Also, as part of the 2010 Drug Strategy, officials looked at international evidence on preventing substance misuse, consulting widely on the most effective ways of doing so. Government Departments are working closely to ensure commitments made in the Drug Strategy are met.

The non-ring fenced Early Intervention Grant will allow local authorities to prioritise funding according to local need and where it will have the greatest impact.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated to the prevention of volatile substance abuse in each of the last three years. [70464]

Sarah Teather: Through the Children and Young People's Grants the Department for Education funded organisations called 'Solve It' and 'Re-Solv' which both work on the prevention of volatile substance abuse (VSA).

'Re-Solv' received money to develop training materials, promote them to key work force groups and deliver training. 'Solve It' received funding to develop a programme of VSA education, awareness, training, family support and counselling. The amounts allocated are shown in the table.

	Re-Solv	*Solve It*	*Total*
2008-09	—	51,000	51,000
2009-10	44,518	50,000	94,518
2010-11	45,097	52,000	97,097
Total	89,615	153,000	242,615

Local authorities used to receive funding through the area-based grant (ABG) for substance misuse. Between 2008 and 2011 it was £7 million per year (£3 million from DFE and £4 million from DH). This year local authorities have received £2.2 billion though the Early Intervention Grant which allows them to target their funding where it is most needed.

Education: Environment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the level of environmental education in schools. [71733]

Mr Gibb: Environmental issues are included in both the current geography curriculum and science curriculum for primary and secondary aged pupils.

Ofsted undertakes thematic reviews of National Curriculum subjects. The 'Geography—Learning to make a world of difference' report, published in 2011, found that in strong performing schools students had an awareness of environmental issues, locally and globally, and cared about their environment and were aware that they needed to act as responsible citizens. In addition, the 'Successful science—An evaluation of science education in England 2007-2010' report, published in 2011, found that in the schools in which the pupils' achievement was good or outstanding the school used their local environment effectively.

Education: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of the 16-to-19 Bursary funding awarded to students in Bassetlaw has been awarded to students who previously received education maintenance allowance (EMA); and how much remains for schools to allocate to applicants who have not previously received EMA. [72796]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the 16-19 Bursary Fund for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 22 September 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ72796 that asked:

"How much of the 16-19 Bursary funding awarded to students in Bassetlaw has been awarded to students who previously received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA); and how much remains for schools to allocate to applicants who have not previously received EMA."

We do not hold the information you are requesting.

Transitional arrangements have been put in place for young people previously in receipt of EMA. These arrangements provide continuity for those young people who successfully applied for EMA in 2009/10 and are completing their course of education or training in 2011/12. In these cases, students will get EMA in 2011/12 at the same rate as they did in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Those young people who were successful in applying for EMA for the 2010/11 academic year and who were assessed as most in need and therefore granted the full £30 a week EMA are still eligible for support until the end of the 2011/12 academic year at the amount of £20 per week.

The 16-19 Bursary is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post-16.

The most vulnerable young people will be eligible for a bursary of at least £1200. This group covers young people who are looked after, care leavers, those in receipt of income support and disabled young people in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

Schools, colleges and other providers have received an allocation of funding for the bursary and are free to determine the scale of discretionary bursaries and the frequency of payments for all awards. The bursary is not necessarily distributed to learners at the start of the academic year but is designed to help at the time of actual need. We have published details of the allocations of funding to schools, colleges and other providers and this can be found at the following website:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/YPLA-Funding_Allocations_201112-li-Aug11-v1.xls

This shows allocations arranged by upper tier local authority, so figures for providers serving Bassetlaw will be included under Nottinghamshire. We do not collect information on the individual students to whom bursaries are allocated.

Education: Young People

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of young people aged between 16 and 19 were not in education, employment or training in each *(a)* region and *(b)* London borough in each year between (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2010-11. [71681]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The official national estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. However, these cannot be disaggregated to local authority or regional level.

We can estimate the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET at a sub-national level using data collected by local authorities. The figures for 16 to 18-year-olds who were NEET in each year between 2006/07 and 2010/11, for England, each region, and for local authorities in London, are shown in the following tables. Note that due to methodological differences, the figure for England does not correspond to the official estimates of NEET published in the SFR.

Average number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET (actual age)

	November to January									
	2006-07		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
	NEET (%)	*Average NEET*	*NEET (%)*	*Average NEET*	*NEET (%)*	*Average NEET*	*NEET (%)*	*Average NEET*	*NEET (%)*	*Average NEET*
England	7.7	122,077	7.8	107,161	6.7	107,970	6.4	101,479	6.0	93,098
South-east	5.6	13,685	6.3	12,852	5.7	14,331	5.8	14,219	5.4	13,147
East of England	6.8	11,947	7.1	10,147	6.2	11,058	5.9	10,455	5.7	10,254
South-west	6.0	9,547	5.9	8,451	5.7	9,035	5.6	25,893	5.3	24,326
West midlands	8.9	15,804	8.8	12,919	7.0	12,738	6.6	35,247	6.2	31,912
East midlands	6.4	8,888	6.7	7,953	5.4	7,819	5.5	23,481	5.4	22,327
Yorks and the Humber	9.3	15,676	8.9	13,923	7.9	13,474	7.8	39,282	7.2	35,201
North-west	8.9	21,045	8.8	19,152	7.8	19,029	7.3	51,483	6.7	45,954
North-east	11.4	9,958	11.7	8,788	9.8	8,755	9.0	23,531	7.9	20,219

Notes:

1. Information on 19-year-olds in the format requested not available for the period 2006-07 to 2010-11.
2. The figures for England presented are calculated by aggregating LA results. They differ from the official DFE estimates of NEET in England reported in a DFE SFR, due to methodological differences.

Source:

CCIS

Average number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET (actual age)

	November to January									
	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	NEET (%)	Average NEET	NEET (%)	Average NEET	NEET (%)	Average NEET	NEET (%)	Average NEET	NEET (%)	Average NEET
London	7.5	15,527	7.4	12,976	5.8	11,731	5.3	10,500	5.0	9,717
Barking and Dagenham	11.4	702	11.5	622	8.9	600	7.9	519	6.9	458
Barnet	4.8	496	5.5	451	4.1	407	3.8	375	3.6	345
Bexley	6.9	477	7.4	437	5.3	350	5.0	326	4.6	300
Brent	6.7	422	6.8	355	4.6	301	4.6	307	5.0	313
Bromley	5.0	499	4.9	472	4.6	478	4.2	444	4.3	445
Camden	7.5	358	7.1	352	6.5	355	5.5	284	6.4	296
City of London	1.1	6	1.8	[1]—	0.6	[1]—	0.6	[1]—	0.2	[1]—
Croydon	8.1	796	8.3	729	7.1	689	6.9	658	6.6	542
Ealing	7.8	483	6.8	326	5.4	331	4.9	301	4.4	278
Enfield	7.0	662	7.7	641	6.4	562	6.1	496	5.8	453
Greenwich	12.0	813	10.1	631	9.5	593	6.6	398	6.2	368
Hackney	13.1	619	14.4	521	10.0	371	7.4	293	6.2	267
Hammersmith and Fulham	8.4	267	7.4	187	6.0	183	5.6	184	5.2	159
Haringey	12.5	582	11.7	444	6.8	313	6.8	320	6.6	299
Harrow	5.3	338	3.5	178	3.2	188	2.9	174	2.7	158
Havering	6.1	576	7.4	519	5.2	459	4.7	406	4.0	343
Hillingdon	7.0	686	6.5	490	5.3	442	5.4	448	4.6	382
Hounslow	8.3	577	7.2	406	5.5	339	4.7	304	4.6	279
Islington	8.6	522	10.1	504	7.7	485	7.3	400	6.2	381
Kensington and Chelsea	7.9	178	6.3	157	5.4	154	5.0	118	5.3	143
Kingston	3.4	174	3.2	165	3.2	159	3.4	164	3.1	138
Lambeth	10.5	483	10.3	439	7.9	319	7.6	299	7.4	293
Lewisham	6.7	489	6.5	444	5.5	451	4.9	414	4.7	363
Merton	6.7	188	6.7	154	5.8	149	5.6	146	5.5	152
Newham	10.8	880	11.4	654	7.7	612	6.7	521	6.4	481
Redbridge	4.8	423	5.6	381	4.2	376	4.1	358	4.1	335
Richmond	4.0	141	4.0	83	3.4	104	3.5	116	3.8	114
Southwark	11.7	582	11.7	485	8.8	395	8.7	294	8.4	271
Sutton	4.8	335	5.1	308	4.4	286	4.4	279	4.2	265
Tower Hamlets	10.9	634	11.2	459	6.7	368	6.0	319	5.3	275
Waltham Forest	6.3	514	6.6	453	4.7	391	4.5	353	4.2	307
Wandsworth	6.0	382	4.9	307	4.4	305	4.3	290	4.5	307
Westminster	6.5	245	5.9	217	5.0	212	4.6	188	4.1	207

[1] Values of five or less have been suppressed for reasons of confidentiality.

Note:

Information on 19-year-olds in the format requested not available for the period 2006-07 to 2010-11

Source:

CCIS

Families: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will *(a)* estimate the proportion of the 120,000 most troubled families in Britain that are resident in Scotland and *(b)* publish demographic information about such families. [72013]

Tim Loughton: Estimates from the Cabinet Office have shown about 2% of families (around 140,000 families) across Britain suffer from multiple problems. Further (unpublished) analysis was commissioned to estimate the number in England which showed that there were around 120,000. We do not have information from that analysis on the proportion resident in Scotland or demographic information about such families. However, data from Census 2001:

> http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/family-demography/focus-on-families/2007/index.html

shows that 9% of Britain's families live in Scotland—though that is all families, not families with multiple problems.

Family Intervention Programme

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many families have participated in the family intervention programme in each year since the establishment of the programme. [72035]

Tim Loughton: Official statistics show that 3,518 families were either receiving an intervention or had received support from a family intervention project in England between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 and 5,461 families between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011. We do not have this information for previous years.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many families have participated in the family intervention projects in each parliamentary constituency. [72036]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold this information but there is information provided at local authority level for England, published as official statistics on 14 September 2011:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001021/index.shtml

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the budget was for family intervention projects in each year since the establishment of such projects; and what the planned budget is for each of the next four years. [72038]

Tim Loughton: The Government allocated £9,049,684 in 2007-08, £11,201,586 in 2008-09, £33,604,489 in 2009-10, £49,789,569 in 2010-11 and £46 million in 2011-12 for family intervention projects/services. The ring fence for this funding was removed in May 2010 and the funding for 2011-12 was included within DFE's Early Intervention Grant. This means that the actual amount spent in 2011-12 could be more or less than the amount allocated. Information about the actual amount spent is not collected. The budget for the next four years has not been decided yet.

Free School Meals

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of the 200 lowest performing primary schools which will become academies *(a)* have more than 40 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals, *(b)* are in the most deprived third of primary schools measured by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index of Area Deprivation, *(c)* have more than 40 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals and are in the most deprived third of primary schools and *(d)* were in each Ofsted grade category in their most recent inspection report. [68469]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not intend to publish the characteristics of the 200 schools that have been below the primary school floor standard for the last five years.

Free School Meals: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(d)* England received free school meals in each year since 1997. [71458]

Mr Gibb: The available information on the number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the tables.

Information is not available prior to 2002 as pupil level data was not collected.

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[1, 2], state-funded secondary[1, 3], special schools[4] and pupil referral units[5], number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, January each year

	York local authority area								
	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*			*Special schools[4]*		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2002	13,201	1,460	11.1	9,205	852	9.3	276	84	30.4
2003	12,879	1,332	10.3	9,486	775	8.2	245	64	26.1
2004	12,843	1,380	10.7	9,555	817	8.6	221	51	23.1
2005	12,785	1,333	10.4	9,385	781	8.3	187	37	19.8
2006	12,621	1,338	10.6	9,266	821	8.9	178	44	24.7
2007	12,385	1,288	10.4	9,162	800	8.7	166	42	25.3
2008	12,175	1,203	9.9	8,873	760	8.6	150	37	24.7
2009	12,069	1,236	10.2	8,744	779	8.9	143	38	26.6
2010	12,170	1,339	11.0	8,743	796	9.1	133	30	22.6
2011	12,274	1,468	12.0	8,693	806	9.3	119	27	22.7

	Pupil referral units[5]			*Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[1, 2], state-funded secondary[1, 3], special schools[4] and pupil referral units[5]*		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2002	—	—	—	22,682	2,396	10.6
2003	—	—	—	22,610	2,171	9.6
2004	—	—	—	22,619	2,248	9.9
2005	—	—	—	22,357	2,151	9.6

	Pupil referral units[5]			*Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[1, 2], state-funded secondary[1, 3], special schools[4] and pupil referral units[5]*		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2006	—	—	—	22,065	2,203	10.0
2007	—	—	—	21,713	2,130	9.8
2008	—	—	—	21,198	2,000	9.4
2009	—	—	—	20,956	2,053	9.8
2010	125	39	31.2	21,171	2,204	10.4
2011	149	54	36.2	21,235	2,355	11.1

North Yorkshire local authority area

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*			*Special schools[4]*		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2002	45,410	4,014	8.8	35,650	2,354	6.6	498	119	23.9
2003	44,751	3,889	8.7	36,139	2,294	6.3	713	116	16.3
2004	43,885	3,897	8.9	36,429	2,439	6.7	683	108	15.8
2005	43,076	3,615	8.4	36,317	2,402	6.6	696	108	15.5
2006	42,223	3,442	8.2	36,022	2,367	6.6	669	114	17.0
2007	41,524	3,461	8.3	35,457	2,363	6.7	658	111	16.9
2008	41,083	3,379	8.2	34,902	2,352	6.7	646	108	16.7
2009	40,658	3,477	8.6	34,393	2,358	6.9	639	107	16.7
2010	40,323	4,122	10.2	33,922	2,617	7.7	617	122	19.8
2011	40,377	4,191	10.4	33,411	2,609	7.8	613	137	22.3

	Pupil referral units[5]			*Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[1, 2], state-funded secondary[1, 3], special schools[4] and pupil referral units[5]*		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2002	—	—	—	81,558	6,487	8.0
2003	—	—	—	81,603	6,299	7.7
2004	—	—	—	80,997	6,444	8.0
2005	—	—	—	80,089	6,125	7.6
2006	—	—	—	78,914	5,923	7.5
2007	—	—	—	77,639	5,935	7.6
2008	—	—	—	76,631	5,839	7.6
2009	—	—	—	75,690	5,942	7.9
2010	66	10	15.2	74,928	6,871	9.2
2011	46	3	6.5	74,447	6,940	9.3

Yorkshire and the Humber

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*			*Special schools[4]*		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[6, 7]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2002	431,015	84,905	19.7	312,420	53,930	17.3	6,585	2,765	42.0
2003	424,145	80,955	19.1	316,080	53,165	16.8	7,060	2,715	38.5
2004	415,765	79,770	19.2	317,955	51,805	16.3	6,845	2,625	38.4
2005	410,570	75,900	18.5	315,715	50,885	16.1	6,650	2,410	36.2
2006	404,205	69,430	17.2	313,890	48,460	15.4	6,615	2,230	33.7
2007	398,295	68,345	17.2	309,795	46,500	15.0	6,535	2,145	32.8
2008	394,575	67,270	17.0	304,190	45,540	15.0	6,570	2,100	32.0
2009	393,310	69,205	17.6	298,370	45,085	15.1	6,510	2,190	33.6

Yorkshire and the Humber

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools*[1, 3]			*Special schools*[4]		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2010	394,640	76,030	19.3	294,380	47,180	16.0	6,365	2,185	34.3
2011	397,300	78,345	19.7	290,395	47,240	16.3	6,270	2,290	36.5

	Pupil referral units[5]			*Maintained nursery, state-funded primary*[1, 2], *state-funded secondary*[1, 3], *special schools*[4] *and pupil referral units*[5]		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2002	—	—	—	750,020	141,600	18.9
2003	—	—	—	747,280	136,835	18.3
2004	—	—	—	740,570	134,200	18.1
2005	—	—	—	732,935	129,190	17.6
2006	—	—	—	724,715	120,120	16.6
2007	—	—	—	714,630	116,985	16.4
2008	—	—	—	705,335	114,910	16.3
2009	—	—	—	698,190	116,480	16.7
2010	1,195	445	37.8	696,580	125,835	18.0
2011	1,355	480	35.4	693,965	127,875	18.4

England

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools*[1, 3]			*Special schools*[4]		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2002	4,064,895	741,495	18.2	2,953,655	469,760	15.9	77,785	30,305	39.0
2003	4,023,395	719,425	17.9	2,992,635	463,600	15.5	84,240	30,615	36.3
2004	3,977,530	730,420	18.4	3,010,100	464,425	15.4	81,825	30,245	37.0
2005	3,939,755	708,245	18.0	2,993,920	453,390	15.1	80,240	27,955	34.8
2006	3,899,450	664,980	17.1	2,985,905	439,125	14.7	79,310	26,690	33.7
2007	3,860,420	654,290	16.9	2,955,210	425,110	14.4	78,760	26,290	33.4
2008	3,837,680	637,170	16.6	2,913,725	413,365	14.2	78,265	25,705	32.8
2009	3,825,475	652,305	17.1	2,883,245	417,970	14.5	78,030	26,245	33.6
2010	3,838,680	711,405	18.5	2,864,345	441,145	15.4	78,335	27,325	34.9
2011	3,873,175	743,255	19.2	2,837,825	450,275	15.9	79,030	28,830	36.5

	Pupil referral units[5]			*Maintained nursery, state-funded primary*[1, 2], *state-funded secondary*[1, 3], *special schools*[4] *and pupil referral units*[5]		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[6, 7]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[6, 7]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2002	—	—	—	7,096,340	1,241,560	17.5
2003	—	—	—	7,100,265	1,213,635	17.1
2004	—	—	—	7,069,450	1,225,090	17.3
2005	—	—	—	7,013,915	1,189,590	17.0
2006	—	—	—	6,964,660	1,130,790	16.2
2007	—	—	—	6,894,390	1,105,690	16.0
2008	—	—	—	6,829,670	1,076,240	15.8
2009	—	—	—	6,786,750	1,096,525	16.2
2010	15,140	5,050	33.3	6,796,500	1,184,920	17.4

	Pupil referral units[5]			Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[1, 2], state-funded secondary[1, 3], special schools[4] and pupil referral units[5]		
	Number on roll[6, 7]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[6, 7]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[6, 7]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
2011	13,725	4,745	34.6	6,803,755	1,227,110	18.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes primary academies.

[3] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[5] Comparable information for pupil referral units is not available prior to 2010 (when the collection became pupil-level).

[6] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations. In pupil referral units also includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

[7] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15 (age as at 31 August).

Note:

National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

School Census.

The latest information, for January 2011, on free school meal eligibility and other school and pupil information can be found in the "Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2011" Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) for what reasons he has extended his Department's contract to provide support for the free school pre-application process; [71556]

(2) who was involved in taking the decision to extend his Department's contract for providing support on the free school pre-application process; [71557]

(3) who composed the advertisement on his Department's website for the contract to provide support in the free school pre-application process; [71558]

(4) which Minister of his Department was responsible for the decision to extend the contract to provide support for the free school pre-application process; [71590]

(5) when the New Schools Network was advised that the contract for providing support for the free school pre-application process had been extended. [71594]

Mr Gibb: We formally agreed with the New Schools Network in June 2011 that the original grant agreement was being extended by two months, without additional funding, to 30 September 2011. The decision to extend was made by the Under-Secretary of State for Schools, my noble Friend Lord Hill of Oareford, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), following advice from officials. It allowed the Department to evaluate the level and quality of support provided to proposers as part of the new process for the second wave of applications before finalising the specification for the competitive grant process that was recently launched. The advertisement on the Department's website for the competitive grant process was written by officials.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the names are of the organisations and individuals consulted by each of the free schools that opened in September 2011 in accordance with the duty to consult under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010; [71566]

(2) if he will publish the results of each consultation undertaken under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 by the free schools that opened in September 2011. [71567]

Mr Gibb: The duty to consult under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 is on the academy trust of a free school, not the Department. The Department does not hold a central record of all of the organisations and individuals consulted as part of the establishment of the free schools opened this month. It is for the individual academy trusts to decide whether to publish the results of their consultations.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the budget is of his Department's free schools group for 2011-12. [71648]

Mr Gibb: The budget allocation for free schools for 2011-12 has yet to be finalised and is partly dependent on the number of high quality free school proposals that are approved to open in September 2012.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education from which geographic areas applications have been made to establish free schools to date. [72150]

Mr Gibb: Applications to establish free schools have been received from every region in England.

Free Schools: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications for free schools funding he has received from Ashfield constituency. [72336]

Mr Gibb: To date, the Department for Education has not received any applications for free schools proposing to be located in Ashfield constituency.

Free Schools: Inspections

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans Ofsted has to inspect free schools. [72268]

Mr Gibb: Free schools are subject to inspection by Ofsted under the same arrangements as those that apply to other academies and maintained schools.

Free Schools: Teachers

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of teachers in each free school do not have a teaching qualification or qualified teacher status. [72271]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not currently hold this information. Free schools are required to take part in statutory data collection exercises, including the School Workforce Census which collects data on teaching staff. The first such data collection exercises for free schools that opened in September 2011 will take place during this academic year and the resulting data will be published on the Department's website.

GCSE

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children achieved GCSE grade A* to C in *(a)* ICT, *(b)* classical civilisation and *(c)* business studies in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [70515]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The available information is given in the following table. Provisional figures for 2011 will be published in October 2011.

Number and percentage of pupils achieving GCSE grade A-C in selected subjects, 2009 and 2010*

	ICT		*Classical civilisation*		*Business studies*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2009	39,400	6.2	3,200	0.5	48,200	7.6
2010	32,900	5.1	3,500	0.5	46,900	7.3

Notes:
1. Source: School and College Performance Tables.
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. All figures are final.

Manpower

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what sub-departments there are within his Department; and how many full-time equivalent staff are employed in each. [71679]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 September) 2011]:* Sub-departments are known as directorates and the latest published information for the Department (as at 31 August 2011) is available in the following table:

Directorate	*Total*	*FTE*
Children Young People and Families	526	503.0
Education Standards	970	925.9
Finance and Strategy	168	161.5
Infrastructure and Funding	809	767.1
Private Office	64	63.1
internal Audit	28	27.0
Legal	3	3.0
Total	2,568	2,450.6

National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics: Manpower

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* managers and *(b)* operational staff there are at the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. [70671]

Mr Gibb: The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics is currently receiving funding for 3.8 full-time equivalent managerial staff undertaken by five members of staff, and five full-time equivalent operational staff undertaken by seven members of staff. This does not include the part-time director role occupied by Professor Celia Hoyles who is seconded from the Institute of Education.

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with Cabinet Office colleagues regarding the award of Government funding to the New Schools Network. [70817]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has not had any discussions with Cabinet Office colleagues on this matter.

New Schools Network: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the reasons were for establishing a grant agreement between his Department and the New Schools Network. [71391]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* The experience of the Academies programme indicates that the support requirements for some promoters, such as new parent groups, could be significant, particularly in the first few months. Some of this function is most appropriately provided by an external organisation, which also distinguishes the roles of promoting and encouraging free school projects from the role of approving them. The Department considered carefully the options for securing the requisite services from an external organisation. Given the need for specialist skills and experience to be in place quickly, it was decided to award a time limited grant to the New Schools Network (NSN).

NSN has championed the development of parent and teacher promoted schools and has been providing advice and support to those interested in establishing new schools, including many of those that have gone on to form the first free schools to open, since 2009. It has also been developing networks among interested groups and individuals. This experience made it ideally placed to fulfil the role and no other organisation had similar experience. The Department has given similar grants in the past, such as to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, the Youth Sport Trust, Holocaust Educational Trust and the National Literacy Trust.

Nurseries

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many nursery places there were at *(a)* maintained, *(b)* private, *(c)* voluntary and *(d)* independent Ofsted-registered providers in (i) 2000-01, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06 and (iv) the most recent year for which figures are available. [72098]

Sarah Teather: The Childcare and Early Years Provider Survey collects information on a regular basis on the number and characteristics of Ofsted registered places amongst child-care and early years providers, including their ownership. Data are not collected on independent Ofsted registered providers.

In 2001, the estimated total number of nursery places was 335,300 and the total number of places for playgroups and pre-schools was 360,900. Data on ownership are not available for 2001. Figures for 2001 are not directly comparable with subsequent years as there was a change to the question about child care places and a change in the definition of provider types.

The following tables provide the number of Ofsted registered places in full day care and sessional settings by ownership for 2005 to 2010, the most recent year for which these figures are available.

Number of Ofsted registered places by ownership

Full day care

	2010	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*
Total number of places	716,700	647,800	620,700	596,500	544,200	511,100
Private or voluntary	626,400	567,500	535,600	510,200	477,900	379,500
Private	464,200	466,900	436,700	417,300	379,400	303,000
Voluntary	162,300	100,600	98,900	92,900	99,700	77,600
Maintained	83,800	63,400	62,900	67,200	54,300	69,800
Local authority	46,200	28,200	29,800	32,600	30,600	49,100
School/ college	37,500	35,200	33,100	34,600	24,000	20,800
Other	14,400	16,100	26,100	14,500	14,500	41,600

Note:
Full day care settings are defined as 'facilities that provide day care for children under eight for a continuous period of four hours or more in any day in premises which are not domestic premises'.
Base:
Child care providers 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005.
Sources:
1. Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2010. DFE: OSR17/2011
2. Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2009. DFE RR-012

Sessional

	2010	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*
Total number of places	251,000	227,900	243,500	248,100	278,300	265,400
Private or Voluntary	238,500	216,700	226,800	232,000	265,700	229,200
Private	91,200	67,900	71,400	70,200	83,000	81,700
Voluntary	147,300	148,800	155,400	161,700	183,500	49,300
Maintained	17,200	10,300	14,200	15,400	12,800	11,300
Local authority	10,200	5,600	7,700	8,600	9,600	7,200
School/ college	6,900	4,700	6,500	6,800	3,200	4,100
Other	2,600	2,000	3,800	3,300	700	8,300

Note:
Sessional care is defined as 'facilities where children under eight attend day care for no more than five sessions a week, each session being less than a continuous period of four hours in any day. Where two sessions are offered in any one day, there is a break between sessions with no children in the care of the provider'.
Base:
Child care providers 2010, 009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005.
Sources:
1. Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2010. DFE OSR17/2011
2. Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2009. DFE RR-012

Pupils: Attendance

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve school attendance. [71555]

Mr Gibb: We are taking a number of steps to improve school attendance. In particular we have reduced the threshold at which a pupil is defined as persistently absent to where a pupil is absent for more than 15% of their schooling, down from 20%. We will continue to look at the possibility of further lowering the threshold over time.

There are a range of parental responsibility measures available to tackle poor attendance, which include parenting contracts; parenting orders; penalty notices; and prosecutions. Charlie Taylor, the Department's independent adviser on school behaviour, along with a team of teaching professionals, will be undertaking a review of these measures in order to make them more effective and to encourage schools to make more use of them.

We will be publishing school level absence data in both the combined autumn and spring term and annual statistical releases.

As part of the new Ofsted inspections framework inspectors will, from January 2012, be looking at school attendance as part the wider behaviour strand of the framework.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children and young people have been sent to each pupil referral unit in each of the last five years. [72034]

Mr Gibb: Information on pupils attending each pupil referral unit (PRU) in England for each of the past five years has been placed in the House Libraries. The information relates to pupils registered at a PRU at the census date, third Thursday in January.

In 2010 a finer breakdown of the different registration types was introduced and this is reflected in the tables.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the level of spending by local authorities on youth activities. [72058]

Tim Loughton: The Department recently received returns from local authorities in England showing planned spend on education and children's services in 2011-12. These suggest that local authorities plan to spend a total of £883 million on services for young people this year which include: youth work; positive activities; information, advice and guidance; substance misuse and teenage pregnancy reduction; and discretionary awards and student support. This represents a 25% reduction on planned spend in 2010-11.

Some youth activities are funded from local authority youth justice budgets. Including total spend on youth justice, planned spend in 2011-12 is £1,245 million, a reduction of 20% on planned spend in 2010-11.

Decisions on levels of spending on services for young people are for local authorities to make. The Government encourage local authorities to invest in evidence-based early intervention strategies to improve outcomes for disadvantaged young people, and to avoid reductions likely to lead to higher costs in future years.

Schools: Admissions

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to allow good schools to expand by increasing pupil numbers. [67267]

Mr Gibb: We consulted nationally between 27 May and 19 August on revised school admissions and appeals codes. As part of that consultation we proposed to relax the current regulations that restrict schools' ability to increase their Published Admission Number (PAN). The changes would enable schools, where they are able and willing to do so, to increase their PAN with far fewer restrictions than at present.

We are carefully analysing the responses to the consultation and intend to publish the departmental response, along with the revised codes, in due course.

Schools: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils attended schools in Ashfield constituency in each year since 2007. [71731]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

All schools: Number of pupils by type of school, Ashfield constituency. January each year: 2007-11

Number (headcount) of pupils[5]

	Nursery				
	Maintained	*Direct grant*	*Total*	*State-funded primary[1,2]*	*State-funded secondary[1,3]*
2007	142	n/a	142	8,549	6,765
2008	136	n/a	136	8,195	6,772
2009	129	n/a	129	8,378	6,639
2010	139	n/a	139	8,325	6,623
2011	101	n/a	101	8,355	6,520

Number (headcount) of pupils[5]

	Special					
	Maintained[4]	*Non-maintained*	*Total*	*Pupil referral units*	*Independent*	*All schools*
2007	149	n/a	149	n/a	149	15,354
2008	155	n/a	155	n/a	155	15,714
2009	145	n/a	145	n/a	142	15,433
2010	151	n/a	151	n/a	126	15,366
2011	156	n/a	156	n/a	73	15,205

n/a = not applicable. No schools at this type.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes primary academies.

[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies including all-through academies.

[4] Includes general hospital schools.

[5] Includes pupils who are sole or dual main registrations. In PRUs also includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

Source:

School Census

Schools: Assessments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails he has received from Ofqual concerning examination paper errors since May 2011; and how many such items of correspondence he has responded to; [66928]

(2) how many students sat *(a)* a GCSE and *(b)* an A-level paper that contained an error in a question for each (i) subject and (ii) examination board in 2011; [66929]

(3) on what dates his Department has reviewed examination paper errors since April 2011. [66930]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has had a number of updates from the chief executive of Ofqual on this matter, and respective officials have stayed in touch regularly, both in person and using various media.

Both the Secretary of State and I met with Ofqual on a number of occasions to discuss the issue and also received regular briefings from Ofqual.

We estimate that 138,782 individual papers may have contained errors from a total of around 15.7 million that were sat. This equates to less than 1% of papers which may have contained an error.

However, the total number of papers containing errors will be not be confirmed until Ofqual report on the summer 2011 appeals against results for GCSE and GCE, which is due to be published early in 2012. Predictions now on the total number of papers, and the subsequent number of students affected by the errors would not be wholly reliable.

Schools: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was spent on average per child on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in state schools in the City of York (i) in cash terms and (ii) at constant prices in each year since 1996-97. [71462]

Mr Gibb: The information is as follows:

Per pupil spend in primary and secondary schools in City of York from 1996 to 2009[1,2]

	Cash terms expenditure per pupil in City of York			*Real terms expenditure per pupil in City of York*		
	Primary education	*Pre-primary and primary education*[3]	*Secondary education*	*Primary education*	*Pre-primary and primary education*[3]	*Secondary education*
1996-97	—	1,540	2,210	—	2,210	3,020
1997-98	—	1,600	2,350	—	2,130	3,130
1998-99	—	1,730	2,460	—	2,250	3,210
1999-2000	1,760	—	2,430	2,250	—	3,110
2000-01	1,860	—	2,640	2,340	—	3,330
2001-02	2,180	—	2,830	2,690	—	3,490
2002-03[4,5]	2,390	—	3,080	2,860	—	3,680
2003-04	2,560	—	3,330	2,970	—	3,870
2004-05	2,680	—	3,660	3,040	—	4,140
2005-06	2,930	—	3,860	3,260	—	4,280
2006-07	3,140	—	3,970	3,370	—	4,260
2007-08	3,290	—	4,190	3,430	—	4,380
2008-09	3,490	—	4,570	3,540	—	4,640
2009-10	3,590	—	4,750	3,590	—	4,750

[1] Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending local authority maintained primary schools and are drawn from the DFE Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

[3] Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 251 for financial year 1999-2000.

[4] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 251 form from the DFE. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the dotted line. From 2002-03 school based expenditure is taken from Section 251 Outturn Table A line 51 net current expenditure (NCE). For 2001-02 and earlier years the expenditure is calculated as lines 1 to 12 less lines 29, 30, 35 and 37. This differs from the old Net Institutional Expenditure (NIE) calculation only in the treatment of meals and milk which is no longer excluded and no adjustments for balances are now made. This is taken from Section 251 Outturn Table 3 for 1999-00 to 2001-02 and from the RO1 form previously.

[5] The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil. From 2002-03 onwards only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the 2002-03 total. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

Notes:

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. Base year for real terms prices is 2009-10 financial year.

Schools: Devon

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school education in Devon in 2010. [71263]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education allocates education funding to local authorities via the Dedicated Schools Grant and separate Standards Fund grants. In 2010-11, the Department allocated £4,700 per pupil. This figure relates to pupils aged three to 19. This is slightly higher than the Guaranteed Unit of Funding for 2011-12 (which is £4,602.77) because the 2010-11 allocation included £20 for sixth formers and £80 from the ending of grants which were not mainstreamed this year (such as Targeted Improvement Grant, Music, Foundation Learning and National Challenge). As the Dedicated Schools Grant is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. But in 2010-11 Devon county council delegated on average £3,251 per pupil to its primary schools and £4,148 to its secondary schools.

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the guaranteed level of funding per pupil was for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Devon in the latest period for which figures are available. [71266]

Mr Gibb: The Guaranteed Unit of Funding for Devon in 2011-12 is £4,602 per pupil. The Department for Education allocates this funding to Devon and it is for the authority to delegate this funding to the schools in their area through their local funding formula to best meet the individual needs and pressures of their schools. It also pays for the free entitlement to early education for three and four-year-olds, and for services retained by the local authority, such as support for high needs pupils.

The level of funding of the pupil premium in 2011-12 is £430 per pupil for those pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, £430 per pupil for looked after children and £200 per pupil for service children. According to the figures recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Devon will receive £4.86 million for the pupil premium.

Schools: Finance

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the size of his Department's schools budget in each of the next four years required to increase schools spending by 0.7% in real terms in each of those years. [68499]

Tim Loughton: The estimate of the schools budget were it to be increased by 0.7% in real terms in each of the next four years is set out in the following table. To calculate this the Budget 2011 GDP deflators have been used. For information these are also set out in the following table.

Financial year	*School baseline in cash terms (uprated at 0.7% per annum plus inflation) (£ million)*	*GDP deflator (Budget 2011)*
2011-12	37,400	1.000
2012-13	38,603	1.025
2013-14	39,923	1.053
2014-15	41,288	1.081
2015-16	42,700	1.110

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what progress his Department has made in conducting its full survey of the school estate in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hertfordshire; [71870]

(2) what progress his Department has made on identifying expenditure on capital maintenance at school level; what assessment he has made of the value for money of such expenditure; and if he will make a statement; [71872]

(3) with reference to the Review of Education Capital, April 2011, what progress has been made on implementing a national contract for maintenance and small capital projects. [71876]

Mr Gibb: The Department is currently consulting on key recommendations of the Review of Education Capital, including on gathering existing condition data and carrying out a full survey of the school estate; and on the implementation of a national contract for maintenance and small capital projects. The consultation will close on 11 October. We want to progress swiftly with the collection of condition data and our provisional timetable suggests surveys would start in April 2012 and be completed by late 2013. We will consider the findings of the consultation before making decisions about national contracts.

The review proposes that the Department maximises value for money delivered through maintenance and small projects and puts in place a clear national contract to make this happen. Overall, we wish to move to the model the review proposes, but we are aware that there are currently local and regional procurement models in place which claim to be delivering on time and with value for money. Some of these may involve contractual arrangements which cannot immediately be changed. This is why we are consulting on this issue to explore the potential and benefits before implementing any change and we do not want to pre-judge the outcome of the consultation.

No information is collected on capital maintenance spend at school level. Local authorities and other local partners make their own decisions on investment maintenance for their buildings based on their own assessment of need. Also, revenue funding can be used to support routine maintenance of buildings.

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made on the introduction of the national funding formula; and if he will make a statement. [71873]

Mr Gibb: In July we launched a consultation on school funding; this closes on 11 October. We will consider the responses carefully before making decisions on a new funding formula for schools.

Schools: Flags

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance he has given to schools on flying the Union flag on *(a)* a regular basis, *(b)* specific national occasions and *(c)* occasional special events; and if he will make a statement. [71606]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not issued any guidance to schools on flying the Union flag. This is consistent with our overall strategy to increase schools' autonomy and to reduce the burden of guidance. Too much guidance can overwhelm school staff and stifle innovation. That is why we have reduced the amount of guidance for schools by 6,000 pages since May 2010.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is responsible for issuing guidance for hoisting the Union flag on UK Government buildings. However, individuals, local authorities, schools and other organisations may fly any flag they wish, subject to compliance with any local planning requirement.

Guidance on flying the Union flag can be accessed on the following hyperlink:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/honours/7124.aspx

Schools: Overseas Students

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the *(a)* number and *(b)* country of origin of foreign nationals who have attended (i) an independent and (ii) a maintained school in each of the last five academic years. [72655]

Mr Gibb: Information on the country of origin of pupils is not centrally collected.

The latest information on the ethnic origin of pupils can be found in Table 4 of the 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2011' Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

School Sport Partnerships

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the budget was for school sport partnerships in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12. [72410]

Tim Loughton: The Department's budget for the school sport partnerships programme for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 is set out in the following table. The programme finished in July 2011 and therefore no grant payments were made in 2011-12.

	£
2008-09	113,214,939
2009-10	116,030,709
2010-11	102,528,267

However, new funding of £65 million is now being made available to enable schools to provide more opportunities for competitive sport. This grant covers the next two school years and will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom to encourage greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools and increase the amount of intra- and inter- school sporting competition for all pupils.

Schools: Transport

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what discussions he has had with local education authorities on his proposal no longer to include questions on mode of travel in the schools census; [72116]

(2) with reference to his Department's Information about Children, Education and Schools Bulletin issue 50, for what reason he proposes that questions on mode of travel should no longer be included in the schools census. [72117]

Tim Loughton: This Government are committed to reducing the bureaucracy and burdens facing our front line services. Following a review of the data collected through the schools census, carried out in partnership with representative schools and local authorities, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), agreed to remove a number of items, including questions on mode of travel.

The Department introduced 'Usual Mode of Travel' into the schools census in 2007 primarily to inform the Travelling to School Initiative (TTSI), which was a project to encourage more children to travel to school sustainably. The data were used to inform schools completing a travel plan. As the TTSI ended on 31 March 2010, the Department no longer has any need to collect this data. However, if local authorities wish they can continue to collect such travel data locally.

Schools: Wirral

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funds *(a)* were and *(b)* are to be made available to schools in Wirral in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [67991]

Mr Gibb: Information on the funding available to Wirral's maintained schools is provided in the authority's annual section 251 budget return. This shows that Wirral's schools budget is £193.8 million in 2010-11 and £217.8 million in 2011-12.

Academies are funded via the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) using the authority's local school funding formula to ensure that academies and maintained schools are funded on a fair and comparable basis. In 2010-11, Birkenhead High School Academy was funded £4.5 million by the YPLA. In 2011-12 Birkenhead High School Academy and the University Academy Birkenhead have been allocated a total of £12 million.

2012-13 local authority allocations will be announced in the autumn.

The Department is currently consulting on a series of proposals to reform the school funding system which will affect the allocations for 2013-14 and 2014-15. The consultation will close on 11 October 2011. The consultation document is available via the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/a00192415/consultation-on-school-funding-reform-proposals-for-a-fairer-system

Sure Start Children's Centres: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families are in receipt of support from Sure Start Children's Centres in York. [71459]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not collect this information. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient children's centres in their area to meet local need, so far as is reasonably practicable. It is for local authorities to commission children's centres and to monitor and evaluate the use and impact of their services.

Vocational Guidance: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the level of careers advice services local authorities in each London borough are planning to provide in response to the ending of the connexions service. [69798]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The Department for Education does not hold information on the services local authorities are planning to provide to fulfil their responsibility to enable, encourage or assist young people's participation in education or training.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 10 October 2011

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the additional research referred to in paragraph 1.5 of his Department's publication, "A New Approach to Child Poverty". [60436]

Maria Miller: Copies of Dr Tess Ridge's research 'Living with Poverty' and The Office of the Children's Commissioner's report 'Trying to Get By' have been placed in the Library.

Access to Work Programme

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the contract to private providers under the Work programme has been weighted to help families with multiple problems. [72093]

Chris Grayling: The private, voluntary and public sector organisations delivering the Work programme are free to innovate and design support that addresses the needs of individuals, taking full account of their circumstances as well as that of the local labour market.

Providers will be paid primarily for the results they achieve in supporting people into sustained employment. They will be paid more to support those who are particularly disadvantaged in the labour market—up to around £14,000 for the hardest to help rather than around £3,000 for a typical jobseekers' allowance claimant. Where a couple have a joint JSA claim and one partner is referred to a Work programme provider, the other partner will be fast-tracked and referred simultaneously to the same provider, facilitating an holistic approach to employment support.

Turning around the lives of families with multiple problems is a high priority across Government, and DWP is exploring ways to further integrate the Work programme with the overall strategy.

Outside the Work programme, DWP is using around £200 million of funding it receives from the European Social Fund (ESF) to help families with multiple problems overcome barriers to employment. The provision will be voluntary and will add value to other existing provision for these families within the area. It will be available in England only. ESF provision has been designed to align with the Work programme. This will enable eligible customers to receive continuity of support through ESF and then Work programme provision.

Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case. [60325]

Chris Grayling: The information is contained in the following table.

SI number	*Title*	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*
2011/686	The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	3 March 2011	10 March 2011	6 April 2011
2011/688	The Jobseeker's Allowance (Mandatory Work Activity Scheme) Regulations 2011	9 March 2011	14 March 2011	6 April 2011
2011/725	The Statutory Maternity Pay (Compensation of Employers) Amendment Regulations 2011	9 March 2011	14 March 2011	6 April 2011
2011/726	The Pension Protection Fund (Pensions on Divorce etc: Charges) Regulations 2011	10 March 2011	15 March 2011	6 April 2011
2011/731	The Pension Protection Fund (Pension Compensation Sharing and Attachment on Divorce etc) Regulations 2011	10 March 2011	15 March 2011	6 April 2011
2011/786	The Social Security (Deferral of Retirement Pensions) (Amendment) Regulations 2011'	15 March 2011	15 March 2011	5 April 2011
2011/789	The Jobseeker's Allowance (Work Experience) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	14 March 2011	26 January 2011	5 April 2011
2011/830	The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Regulations 2011	17 March 2011	21 March 2011	11 April 2011
2011/839	The Financial Assistance Scheme (Revaluation and Indexation Amendments) Regulations 2011	17 March 2011	31 January 2011	31 March 2011
2011/917	The Jobseeker's Allowance (Employment, Skills and Enterprise Scheme) Regulations 2011	28 March 2011	31 March 2011	20 May 2011
2011/1024	The Mesothelioma Lump Sum Payments (Conditions and Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	31 March 2011	3 February 2011	1 April 2011
2011/1026	The Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) (Payment of Claims) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	31 March 2011	3 February 2011	1 April 2011
2011/1245	The Pensions Act 2007 (Abolition of Contracting-out for Defined Contribution Pension Schemes) (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2011	12 May 2011	16 May 2011	6 April 2012
2011/1294	The Occupational Pension Schemes (Contracting-out) Amendment Regulations 2011	18 May 2011	23 May 2011	1 October 2011

SI number	*Title*	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*
2011/1349	The Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Regulations 2011	26 May 2011	28 February 2011	1 June 2011

The Department publishes impact assessments for regulation that has a cost to, or benefit for, business, civil society organisations or the public sector and copies of these are placed in the Library of the House.

Disability Living Allowance: Autism

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects in reductions in entitlement to disability living allowance on those suffering from autism. [72084]

Maria Miller: We are still developing the assessment for personal independence payment and it is too early to say what its impact will be. We do, however, believe that the criteria will take better account of the impact of autistic spectrum disorders than the current criteria for disability living allowance, which do not always reflect the needs of disabled people with mental, intellectual, cognitive and development impairments. For example, the introduction of communication is a significant departure from disability living allowance and one which will ensure we better take into account the effect of impairments that impact on sight, hearing, speech and comprehension.

I have met with the National Autistic Society to hear its views on disability living allowance reform first-hand. We hope to continue working closely with them and other disability organisations as we continue to develop the assessment criteria and move towards implementation of personal independence payment.

We published our initial proposals for the assessment criteria in May and sought views from disabled people and their organisations on this draft. As part of this officials met with the National Autistic Society and are currently considering the society's written response to the informal consultation. We also tested the initial draft criteria over the summer to enable us to better understand their likely impact, which included specifically looking at how they affected people with autistic spectrum disorders. Once we have considered both the feedback received and the findings from the testing, we intend to publish a second draft of the assessment criteria later in the autumn.

Disability Living Allowance: Diseases

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received disability living allowance for care needs or mobility restrictions resulting from sickle cell disease or thalassaemia in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [64788]

Maria Miller: The information is not available in the format requested. Sickle cell disease and thalassaemia are categorised as part of the blood disorders group. The information relating to numbers of disability living allowance recipients where blood disorder is listed as the main disabling condition for each of the years requested is shown in the following tables:

Disability living allowance mobility component in payment with blood disorders as the main disabling condition

	Great Britain and abroad	*Higher*	*Lower*	*Nil*
November 2010	6,200	4,500	500	1,200
November 2009	6,200	4,300	500	1,400
November 2008	6,400	4,200	600	1,600

Disability living allowance care component in payment with blood disorders as the main disabling condition

	Great Britain and abroad	*Higher*	*Middle*	*Lower*	*Nil*
November 2010	6,200	2,200	2,000	1,100	900
November 2009	6,200	2,200	2,100	1,100	800
November 2008	6,400	2,100	2,100	1,300	900

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the WPLS.
3. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5% sample data are generally the preferred source for analysis on disabling condition as information is more complete for disabling condition on the 5% sample (Some recipients of DLA who transferred from the AA system may not have been allocated a specific disabling condition code. This problem can be corrected on the sample data but not on the WPLS data. The number of cases affected is decreasing over time).
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
5. This blood disorders group includes also includes conditions such as anaemia.
6. DLA recipients may be in receipt of both the mobility and care components. In November 2010 for example around about two thirds of recipients with a main disabling condition of 'Blood Disorders' are in receipt of both components.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Sample data (5%)

Disability: Atos Healthcare

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will discuss with Atos Healthcare the *(a)* availability of disabled parking at and *(b)* accessibility to disabled access to the employment and support allowance Atos assessment centre in Romford. [71795]

Chris Grayling: Blackburn House, where Romford Medical Examination Centre (MEC) is situated in the middle of Romford, has no visitor parking on site although there are two parking bays for use by blue badge holders in Eastern road close to the MEC entrance. There are several secure car parks nearby, including the Liberty multi-story car park on Western road, which has designated spaces for disabled drivers.

With regard to disabled access to the MEC, the landlord has recently installed a new entrance door with a release button that will open automatically and there is a security guard available to give assistance to any visitor who requires it.

Within the MEC there is also an accessible toilet, dual height reception counter and a portable induction loop amongst other measures available to assist disabled people.

Romford MEC is approved by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) as an appropriate location for medical assessments in connection with DWP benefit claims and is a well equipped examination facility.

The MEC is on the second floor of Blackburn House. Atos Healthcare adheres to DWP health and safety advice; when it is identified prior to assessment that a client will be unable to use stairs to safely evacuate in the event of an emergency, they will either be offered a home visit or an appointment at another convenient MEC. This information is identified from the customer's completed employment and support allowance pre-assessment questionnaire on page 3 where claimants are asked if they are able to get up and down stairs.

It should also be noted that the map/directions provided with the appointment letter do state that the MEC is located on the second floor and that, in the event of an emergency evacuation, it is 36 steps to the ground floor. Claimants who feel that they would have difficulty in negotiating the 36 steps on their own are asked to contact the Appointments Helpdesk for assistance and if appropriate make an alternative appointment.

Depending on where the claimant lives, the Medical Examination Centres at Marylebone, Highgate or Chelmsford could all be within the agreed travelling times.

These MECs all have ground floor facilities. Alternatively, arrangements for a domiciliary visit can be made to carry out the assessment.

Atos Healthcare is working with DWP to review all non ground floor assessment centres to identify additional ground floor rooms that may become available and, in future the department and Atos Healthcare has agreed that all new assessment centres will have ground floor assessment rooms.

Disability: Cars

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many specially adapted motor cars for disabled drivers have been provided *(a)* nationally and *(b)* to residents of Wiltshire in each of the last five years. [72086]

Maria Miller: The Department works closely with Motability but it is an independent charity and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. They have agreed to write separately to the hon. Lady with such information as they have available.

Disability: Children

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to assist parents and carers of disabled children to work through the provision of help with disabled child care. [71910]

Maria Miller: We are committed to improving choice for and the experience of, families with disabled children. Many parents and carers of disabled children tell us they want to combine paid work with their caring responsibilities, but need access to good quality flexible working. The Government are keen to promote flexible working and have a strong commitment to greater family-friendly working practices and have committed, in the coalition agreement, to consult on extending the right to request flexible working to all employees. The public consultation process recently ended and we intend to respond to comments by the end of the year.

Jobcentre Plus advisers work closely with parents and carers to help them enter the labour market. Advisers can provide a parent or carer with a 'Better Off Calculation' to illustrate how they can be financially better off in work. This calculation includes those elements of tax credits which provide support with child care, including for disabled children.

Advisers also have access to a discretionary fund to provide financial support for child care and replacement care costs, which the parent or carer may need to address, before moving into work. Support for child care costs and replacement care is available to enable parents and carers to take up training and other work preparation support, while funding is also made available to manage the transition to employment once the parent or carer has been offered employment.

In March this year, we published a Green Paper, 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability', which set out what the Government will do to support disabled children and their families.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient child care to meet the needs of parents in their area, to enable them to work, or undertake learning or training leading to work. This duty specifically requires local authorities to secure child care provision for disabled children up to the age of 18, and all local authorities are provided with financial support to meet the duty.

Support for child care costs will be provided in universal credit by an additional element, and we aim to extend support to those working fewer than 16 hours. We are still considering what rates to set.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 907W, on employment and support allowance, what the equivalent figures are for each benefits area in Wales. [72153]

Chris Grayling: During 2009-10 and 2010-11, claimants of employment and support allowance and its predecessor benefits who lived in Wales, could partake in Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work if they lived in the Jobcentre Plus districts of:

South Wales Valleys

South West Wales.

Those who lived in the Jobcentre Plus districts of:

North and Mid Wales

South East Wales

could be referred from Jobcentre Plus to Action for Employment (A4e) via the Provider-Led Pathways to Work programme, once they had undertaken an initial Work-Focussed Interview with Jobcentre Plus.

The table shows the number of mandatory and voluntary starts in each quarter of 2009-10 and 2010-11 to: .

Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work—for customers who lived in South Wales Valleys and South West Wales Jobcentre Plus districts

Provider-Led Pathways to Work—for customers who go on to start with A4e in North and Mid Wales and South East Wales Jobcentre Plus districts, after being referred by Jobcentre Plus following their initial Work-Focussed Interview[1]:

		Jobcentre Plus Pathways		*Provider-Led Pathways—A4e*	
Quarter of starting Pathways with Jobcentre Plus	*Wales*	*South Wales Valleys*	*South West Wales*	*North and Mid Wales*	*South East Wales*
1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009	10,950	4,340	3,850	1,150	1,610
1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009	10,690	4,410	3,790	1,210	1,290
1 October 2009 to 31 December 2009	9,810	3,860	3,380	1,210	1,360
1 January 2010 to 31 March 2010	8,740	4,200	3,610	430	490
1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010	8,090	3,830	3,260	500	500
1 July 2010 to 30 September 2010	7,570	3,650	3,130	410	380
1 October 2010 to 31 December 2010	6,960	3,470	3,020	250	240
1 January 2011 to 31 January 2011	2,320	1,210	1,110	0	0
Total	65,130	28,970	25,140	5,160	5,860

Official statistics are routinely published for employment programmes such as Pathways to Work. Official statistics on Pathways to Work starts and job entries are currently available up to January 2011, and are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=ib_ref_p2w

Employment and Support Allowance: Atos Healthcare

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the appeal process is for a claimant of employment and support allowance placed in the work-related activity group, who has been diagnosed by both Atos and a GP as suffering from a degenerative illness. [71796]

Chris Grayling: If an employment and support allowance (ESA) claimant disagrees with the outcome of a work capability assessment (WCA), they are able to ask the office who made the decision to explain it, ask to have the decision reconsidered by Jobcentre Plus, or appeal against the decision to an independent tribunal run by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service. This is the case irrespective of the health condition or disability they may have.

If the claimant wishes to appeal against the decision to an independent tribunal, they will usually need to do this within one month of the decision they are appealing against, although late appeals may be accepted in some circumstances.

Under the Welfare Reform Bill proposal to require consideration of revision of a decision before an appeal, the claimant would be required to go through the reconsideration process before being able to make an appeal to the tribunal. This new approach would increase the likelihood that the decision to appeal would be informed by the claimant's view of whether reconsideration had provided them with an adequate 'second opinion' and a clear justification for the original decision.

The work capability assessment is based on the premise that eligibility for ESA should not be based on the diagnosis of a specific condition, but rather on the way that the condition limits an individual's functional capability. It takes account of fluctuating and variable conditions and people are given every opportunity to explain how their condition affects them as an individual. As part of the WCA, a health-care professional will provide advice on when they think a claimant's condition may have changed sufficiently that a review of their circumstances is necessary. The Department uses this advice to decide when to reassess claimants.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish his participation strategy to maximise participation of 16 to 24-year-olds in education, training or work. [72045]

Chris Grayling: Work on the participation strategy is currently under way and is being led jointly by this Department along with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education. The Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health are also involved. As set out in the Social Mobility document 'Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers', it is due to be published autumn 2011 and will consider issues for young people not in employment, education, or training, and the barriers they face.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sector-based work academies he plans to establish in 2011; and for what areas he proposes they will be responsible. [72046]

Chris Grayling: Sector-based work academies are being established in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies. The model is flexible and can be tailored to meet sector and local needs. As a locally-driven initiative the geographical distribution and number of sector-based work academies will depend on the appetite of employers, training providers and claimants across the Jobcentre Plus districts.

Jobcentre Plus, working in partnership with local employers and training providers, will determine the most appropriate offer to meet the need of the local labour market. There is no specific target for the number of sector-based work academies to be established in 2011. However, we anticipate the participation of up to 50,000 benefit claimants in sector-based work academies by the end of March 2013.

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[1] *Source:*

DWP Jobcentre Plus and Provider-Led Pathways databases. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his proposed sector-based work academies will be funded; who he proposes may apply to establish such academies; and if he will make a statement. [72047]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus is seeking to establish partnerships both with local employers in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies and with training providers, to establish sector-based work academies that meet the needs of the local labour market. The Department for Work and Pensions has allocated £13.1 million to support the implementation and co-ordination of the initiative.

The pre-employment training element of the sector-based work academy model will be funded from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills' Adult Skills budget. It will also be acceptable for employers to fund and deliver the training element of a sector-based work academy themselves if they prefer.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how he proposes that young people will be routed from work experience schemes to apprenticeships. [72049]

Chris Grayling: Work experience and apprenticeships are central to improving the prospects of young unemployed people across the country.

Overall we are funding up to 100,000 work experience placements over two years. This will enable young people to undertake a period of valuable work experience lasting between two and eight weeks. Claimants in the 18 to 24 age group are eligible for work experience and from October 2011 we will be widening eligibility to include 16 and 17-year-olds in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

This Government are funding up to 250,000 more apprenticeships in England over the next four years. There will be clear routes into apprenticeships to widen access to the programme and clear routes into higher level skills training including, but not exclusively, higher apprenticeships. We are committed to strengthening the links between work experience and apprenticeships. From October this year young people will be able to have their work experience placements extended by up to four weeks where employers make a firm offer of an apprenticeship and that offer is accepted. This will be one of the routes that will help to maximise the number of young people moving off benefits into the 40,000 extra apprenticeships, targeted at unemployed young people, that were announced in the 2011 Budget.

Employment: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate has been made of the number of people not in employment, education or training *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Milton Keynes. [71985]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of people not in employment, education or training (a) nationally and (b) in Milton Keynes. (71985)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

For the period January 2010 to December 2010, the number of people aged 16 to 64 not in education, employment or training was 31,000 in Milton Keynes and 8,690,000 in the UK.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Employment: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has relating to the future employment of local authority employees in Scotland who administer benefits advice following implementation of his legislative proposals on welfare reform. [72011]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will be delivered by DWP drawing on the expertise of HMRC and local authorities. The best of the current capability will be used to deliver the new service, taking the opportunity to modernise and improve it to deliver better efficiency for the taxpayer and better service for claimants. As DWP starts to build the organisation to deliver universal credit, the role of providing benefits advice will form part of our thinking and we continue to work collaboratively across HMRC and local authorities to enable a future proof design to meet claimant needs.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were claiming housing benefit in each local authority in Great Britain *(a)* in total and *(b)* in respect of (i) shared, (ii) one-bedroom, (iii) two-bedroom, (iv) three-bedroom and (v) four-bedroom properties in May 2011. [71229]

Steve Webb: The requested information cannot be provided by bedroom size. The Department does not collect administrative information on the number of bedrooms for accommodation in the social rented sector. In the private rented sector although the local housing allowance rate provides information on the bedroom size for which local housing allowance is payable it is not necessarily a reflection of the property size occupied as claimants can choose to over or under occupy.

The Family Resources Survey does collect information on the number of bedrooms in a household however this is not sufficiently robust to present by local authority.

A copy of the Housing Benefit caseload as of May 2011 has been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* percentage change in the number of households claiming local housing allowance in each local authority area in Great Britain was between June 2010 and May 2011. [71230]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications were made for housing benefit discretionary payments in each local authority area in 2010-11; and how many households received housing benefit discretionary payment. [71232]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. The Department does hold some management information on the number of awards in each local authority area, but this has not been through sufficient quality assurance for publication.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress he is making in his proposals to cap housing benefit. [72056]

Steve Webb: From April 2011, we introduced overall weekly maximum local housing allowance rates for each category of property as well as the removal of the five-bedroom rate.

The new capped rates are:

£250 a week for a one-bedroom property

£290 a week for a two-bedroom property

£340 a week for a three-bedroom property

£400 a week for a four-bedroom property or larger

There is provision for existing claimants to have more time to adjust to any reduction in entitlement by giving them up to nine months transitional protection from the anniversary date of their claim.

We have also provided a substantial increase in the discretionary housing payment budget, which will allow local authorities to give additional support and help people through the transition.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with *(a)* the National Housing Federation and *(b)* individual housing associations regarding plans to restrict housing benefit payments where the claimant is deemed to be under-occupying their home. [72165]

Steve Webb: The Minister for Welfare Reform, my noble Friend Lord Freud, has met with the National Housing Federation and various housing associations to discuss welfare reform issues including housing benefit and is always receptive to contributions they have to make to the debate. DWP officials have also met and continue to engage with the National Housing Federation, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and a number of housing associations on this measure. A questionnaire was recently issued to 200 local authorities and housing associations specifically about the under-occupancy measure and 56 responses have been received.

Housing Benefit: Leeds

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effects of *(a)* the changes in housing benefit and *(b)* the £26,000 benefits cap on households by family size in (i) Leeds and (ii) the UK. [71908]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) In Great Britain, it is estimated that housing benefit claimants assessed under the local housing allowance rules will lose on average £12 per week as a result of the changes that were introduced in April 2011. The average loss in Leeds is estimated at £7. Impacts by family size are not available, although the Department has published statistics on losses broken down by bedroom entitlement.

Average loss per claimant from the April 2011 local housing allowance reforms

£

	Great Britain	*Leeds*
Shared	7	3
1-bedroom	11	7
2-bed room	12	8
3-bedroom	15	7
4-bedroom	22	12
5-bedroom	57	21
Overall	12	7

(b) The Department's estimates for the impacts of the proposed overall, benefit cap in Great Britain can be found in the impact assessment published to support the cap's inclusion in the Welfare Reform Bill. The impact assessment can be found on the Department's internet site at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

Information on its specific effects in Leeds is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for areas smaller than the overall impacts for Great Britain.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of recipients of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit are in work in (i) Leeds and (ii) the UK. [71909]

Steve Webb: The information as requested is not available.

A breakdown of housing benefit (HB)/council tax benefit (CTB) recipients by employment status is only available for recipients who are not also on a passported benefit (income support, jobseekers allowance (income-based), employment and support allowance (income based), or pension credit (guaranteed credit). Non-passported recipients represent around one third of all HB/CTB recipients. Available information is shown in the following tables:

Housing benefit recipients by passported status, in Leeds local authority, and Great Britain. May 2011

	All HB recipients	*Passported*	*Non-passported*	*Non-passported: of which in employment*
Great Britain	4,879,180	3,237,770	1,638,770	803,070
Leeds local authority	67,050	46,650	20,400	8,960

Council tax benefit recipients by passported status, in Leeds local authority, and Great Britain. May 2011

	All CTB recipients	*Passported*	*Non-passported*	*Non-passported: of which in employment*
Great Britain	5,852,130	3,910,290	1,933,630	697,080
Leeds local authority	76,480	52,720	23,760	7,870

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Proportions to the nearest one decimal place.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full-time, work more hours or earn more money.
4. Passported status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority
computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and May 2011 are the most recent available.
6. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
7. These data refer to people receiving housing benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit and are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. People receiving passported benefits who are working part-time cannot be identified and are therefore not included in this analysis.
8. DWP does not hold benefit statistics for Northern Ireland. Benefit statistics are published on the Department for Social Development Northern Ireland's (DSDNI) website at:
http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/benefit_publications.htm
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Housing Benefit: Mental Illness

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with charities and mental health workers on the effects on single people under 35 years with a mental illness of changes to the local housing allowance shared accommodation rate. [70146]

Steve Webb: We have regular meetings with voluntary organisations and groups that specifically focus on mental health issues. We have considered carefully representations made directly to us and responses to the consultation held by the Social Security Advisory Committee on the shared accommodation rate change.

Discretionary housing payments can be paid to those in receipt of housing benefit, who face a shortfall in meeting their contractual rent. These payments are very flexible and can be considered where, in the local authority's opinion, further financial assistance with housing costs is required.

Housing Benefit: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received housing benefit in the Vale of Clywd in each month since November 2008. [72029]

Steve Webb: The Department regularly publishes monthly housing benefit case loads at local authority area level which are available from November 2008 to May 2011 on its website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb

However, parliamentary constituency breakdowns have only been produced as a one-off exercise for January 2011, and are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hb_ctb_parlc_jan11.xls

The number of housing benefit (HB) recipients in the Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency at January 2011 was 6,570.

Notes:

1. Parliamentary constituency is based on the address of the HB/CTB recipient. Note that local authority data is based on the authority administering the benefit claim. It is possible for the recipient to reside in a different LA to the one administering their HB/CTB claim. Therefore it may not always be possible to make direct comparisons between parliamentary constituency and local authority data.

2. Recipients are as at the second Thursday of the month.

3. The figure has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Innovation Fund

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure that resources from the Innovation Fund are made available to support the re-employment of skilled and experienced careers advisers recently made unemployed as a result of the closure of Connexions services. [72095]

Chris Grayling: The Innovation Fund will support disadvantaged young people, and those at risk of disadvantage, aged 14 years and over. Any organisation in the public, private or voluntary sector is eligible to bid for the Innovation Fund, as an investor/ intermediary or as a delivery organisation within a social investment partnership. The second phase of the Innovation Fund will be launched in the autumn and projects are being selected on the basis of a competitive process.

Payments from the fund will be made on the basis of the educational and employment related outcomes achieved by the participants. However, the Innovation Fund provision must not duplicate existing programmes or funding arrangements—the provision needs to be genuinely innovative and deliver support to individuals which would not otherwise be available to them.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria his Department uses to ensure information and updates on legislation and procedures passed to all *(a)* staff handling jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* national helplines, *(c)* voluntary agencies and *(d)* claimants. [71882]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) Standard processes exist within Jobcentre Plus to ensure that changes such as the introduction of new legislation are notified to staff in advance. This includes a four week notice period of any changes to internal guidance and supporting products, to ensure that all staff are fully aware of the scope and affect of the change before the policy or process changes are implemented. A monthly strategic forward look of change, including the impacts on operational capacity to absorb change, is also available to staff. Additional products, such as Learning and Development, are produced to help staff understand the changes.

(b) Assuming 'national helplines' refer to those operated by DWP, the same response applies as *(a)* above, about how we inform staff.

(c) There are no set criteria for disseminating information to voluntary agencies, i.e. the advice sector. Each instance is judged on its own merits. The primary channel for communicating with this sector is the DWP Adviser and Intermediaries site, which has links to legislation and guidance. Changes are communicated through this site, through direct mailings to national customer organisations and at meetings with representatives of the sector.

(d) To provide claimants with information about changes to legislation, the Department takes a two-part approach:

For new claimants, information is updated in our printed leaflets, factsheets and forms, and on our Directgov information pages. Where appropriate we may highlight that the new information is a change. For printed materials, we aim to update products to a schedule that minimises unnecessary cost (for example at a regular review stage, or when old stock needs to be reprinted).

For existing claimants, changes are notified through our existing relationship, either during regular fortnightly signing in Jobcentres, through letters or through direct contact (such as by phone or in adviser interviews).

New Enterprise Allowance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions through what channels his Department makes information on the new enterprise allowance available. [72044]

Chris Grayling: Background information about the new enterprise allowance and its administration, together with a list of the Department's delivery partners in Jobcentre Plus districts, can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/new-enterprise-allowance/

Information on the new enterprise allowance scheme itself is available to claimants online, through the Directgov website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers/LookingForWork/DG_173931

Jobcentre Plus front-line staff also provide claimants with information about the scheme when they attend the Jobcentre for regular interventions.

Information about the performance of the new enterprise allowance scheme will be released as part of the pre-Work programme official statistics covering Get Britain Working Measures. The first release is due to be published on 16 November 2011. More information can be found on the Department's website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp

Pensions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding his Department has allocated to explaining the planned changes to pensions and their consequences to businesses. [72208]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham) on 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1360W.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to offset the costs incurred by micro firms in implementing pension changes in 2012. [72209]

Steve Webb: The independent Making Automatic Enrolment Work review looked at the impact of the reforms on employers and specifically examined whether micro employers should be excluded from the reforms. It concluded that they should not because this would exclude 1.5 million people working for small businesses from the opportunity to save for their retirement.

We do, however, want to make the implementation of the reforms as straightforward for employers as possible and the Pensions Bill 2011 includes measures that will reduce the regulatory impact on business including:

An increase in the earnings threshold for automatic enrolment;

An optional waiting period of up to 3 months before an employee needs to be automatically enrolled; and

A simpler way for employers to check that existing defined contribution schemes meet the required standards.

In addition, the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) has been established to ensure that all, employers have access to suitable, low cost pension provision. NEST has been designed to make compliance with the reforms as straightforward as possible for all employers, and will be particularly suited to the needs of small and micro business.

Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of households in poverty have at least one person working. [72030]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of various groups of individuals living in poverty across the UK are published in Households Below Average Income Series (HBAI, 2009/10). This uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size using various thresholds of low income poverty. This analysis looks at household level poverty, using a threshold of the 60% of contemporary median equivalised disposable household income

The following table shows the number and proportion of households, where at least one person is working, that have income below 60% of contemporary median household income, both Before and After Housing Costs in 2009-10, the most recent data available.

Number in millions and percentage of households with income below 60% of median income Before Housing Costs (BHC) and After Housing Costs (AHC) where at least one person is working

	Million (and %) of households	
	BHC	*AHC*
2009-10	1.7 (36)	2.5 (43)

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost and an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. Proportions of households in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage point and numbers of households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits are claimed by *(a)* working households in poverty without children, *(b)* workless households in poverty without children, *(c)* lone parents in poverty who work, *(d)* lone parents in poverty who do not work, *(e)* couple parents in poverty who work, *(f)* couple parents in poverty who do not work, *(g)* workless households in poverty with children, who have one or more adult who is disabled and *(h)* workless households in poverty without children, who have one or more adult who is disabled; what estimate he has made of the average amount of time members of each such category spent on administering benefits and benefits claims in the latest period for which figures are available; what (i) additions and (ii) mental health problems affecting people in each such category have been reported to his Department; and what the incidence of such households is in each geographic area. [72212]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of various groups of individuals living in poverty are published in the households below average income (HBAI) series sourced from the Family Resources Survey. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living. This analysis looks at household level poverty, using a threshold of 60% of contemporary median equivalised disposable household income.

Data provided in the following tables for the United Kingdom are for 2009/10, the most recent year for which data is available.

Tables 1 and 2 as follows show the proportion of each of the household and family types specified in receipt of each type of state support. The sample size of the Family Resources Survey is not sufficient to provide estimates below the United Kingdom level.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not have an estimate of the average amount of time members of each household and family types specified spent on administering benefits and benefits claims. It also has no information on the additions and mental health problems affecting people in each household and family type have reported.

Table 1a: Percentage of each family or household type who are in receipt of each type of state support, before housing costs (part 1)

Percentage

	Family or household type			
State support type	*Working households in poverty without children*	*Workless households in poverty without children*	*Lone parent families in poverty who work*	*Lone parent families in poverty who do not work*
Working tax credit	8	—	52	—
Child tax credit	—	1	75	73
Income support	2	15	7	57
Pension credit	2	8	—	—
Housing benefit	11	43	25	72
Council tax benefit (support for rates in Northern Ireland)	13	58	26	77
Retirement pension	7	13	—	—
Widow's benefits	—	1	4	3
Jobseeker's allowance	11	27	1	9
Employment and support allowance	2	5	1	3
Incapacity benefit	3	17	—	6
Severe disablement allowance	—	1	—	—
Attendance allowance	1	—	—	—
Carer's allowance	1	2	1	2
Disability living allowance (care component)	3	8	1	4
Disability living allowance (mobility component)	4	8	—	3
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	—	—	1	—
Armed Forces Compensation scheme	—	—	—	—
Child benefit	—	—	95	92
On any income related benefit	21	65	31	87
On any non-income related benefit	29	48	95	95
All in receipt of benefit	43	81	96	97
All in receipt of tax credits	6	—	75	73
All not in receipt of state support	38	75	97	97
Population (millions)	0.9	1.2	0.1	0.4

Table 1b: Percentage of each family or household type who are in receipt of each type of state support, before housing costs (part 2)

Percentage

	Family or household type			
State support received	*Couple parent families in poverty who work*	*Couple parent families in poverty who do not work*	*Workless households in poverty with children, who have one or more adult who is disabled*	*Workless households in poverty without children, who have one or more adult who is disabled*
Working tax credit	36	1	1	—
Child tax credit	61	70	75	1

Table 1b: Percentage of each family or household type who are in receipt of each type of state support, before housing costs (part 2)

Percentage

	Family or household type			
State support received	*Couple parent families in poverty who work*	*Couple parent families in poverty who do not work*	*Workless households in poverty with children, who have one or more adult who is disabled*	*Workless households in poverty without children, who have one or more adult who is disabled*
Income support	1	21	40	25
Pension credit	—	1	2	11
Housing benefit	8	58	67	53
Council tax benefit (support for rates in Northern Ireland)	11	72	81	73
Retirement pension	—	1	5	16
Widow's benefits	—	—	1	1
Jobseeker's allowance	5	39	18	16
Employment and support allowance	1	6	9	8
Incapacity benefit	2	13	22	33
Severe disablement allowance	—	—	1	1
Attendance allowance	—	—	—	1
Carer's allowance	1	6	7	3
Disability living allowance (care component)	3	12	21	16
Disability living allowance (mobility component)	2	8	14	16
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	—	—	2	—
Armed Forces Compensation scheme	—	1	—	—
Child benefit	93	92	94	1
On any income related benefit	16	79	85	80
On any non-income related benefit	93	93	97	67
All in receipt of benefit	94	97	99	95
All in receipt of tax credits	61	70	62	—
All not in receipt of state support	94	97	85	89
Population (millions)	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.6

Source:
Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2009/10, DWP

Table 2a: Percentage of each family or household type who are in receipt of each type of state support, before housing costs (part 1)

Percentage

	Family or household type			
State support received	*Working households in poverty without children*	*Workless households in poverty without children*	*Lone parent families in poverty who work*	*Lone parent families in poverty who do not work*
Working tax credit	8	—	55	—
Child tax credit	—	1	78	79
Income support	2	19	9	68
Pension credit	2	7	—	—
Housing benefit	13	53	35	82
Council tax benefit (support for rates in Northern Ireland)	14	64	31	84
Retirement pension	6	12	—	—
Widow's benefits	—	1	2	2
Jobseeker's allowance	10	26	1	8
Employment and support allowance	2	5	—	3
Incapacity benefit	3	19	—	5
Severe disablement allowance	—	1	—	—
Attendance allowance	—	—	—	—
Carer's allowance	—	2	—	2
Disability living allowance (care component)	3	11	1	3
Disability living allowance (mobility component)	3	9	—	3
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	—	—	—	—
Armed Forces Compensation scheme	—	—	—	—
Child benefit	—	1	94	95
On any income related benefit	21	70	39	92
On any non-income related benefit	25	49	95	97
All in receipt of benefit	38	82	95	98
All in receipt of tax credits	5	—	78	79
All not in receipt of state support	33	77	97	98
Population (millions)	1.3	1.4	0.2	0.6

Table 2b: Percentage of each family or household type who are in receipt of each type of state support, before housing costs (part 2)

Percentage

	Family or household type			
State support received	*Couple parent families in poverty who work*	*Couple parent families in poverty who do not work*	*Workless households in poverty with children, who have one or more adult who is disabled*	*Workless households in poverty without children, who have one or more adult who is disabled*
Working tax credit	36	1	—	—
Child tax credit	63	72	78	1
Income support	1	25	49	31
Pension credit	—	2	2	9
Housing benefit	12	65	78	67
Council tax benefit (support for rates in Northern Ireland)	13	77	86	79
Retirement pension	—	1	3	14
Widow's benefits	—	—	1	1
Jobseeker's allowance	5	39	16	16
Employment and support allowance	1	5	9	7
Incapacity benefit	1	14	21	33
Severe disablement allowance	—	1	1	1
Attendance allowance	—	—	—	1
Carer's allowance	1	7	8	2
Disability living allowance(care component)	2	16	21	20
Disability living allowance (mobility component)	2	13	17	17
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	—	—	1	—
Armed Forces Compensation scheme	—	—	—	—
Child benefit	93	93	95	1
On any income related benefit	19	82	91	85
On any non-income related benefit	93	94	98	68
All in receipt of benefit	94	98	100	96
All in receipt of tax credits	63	72	66	—
All not in receipt of state support	94	98	89	91
Population (millions)	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.7

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc

2. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2009/10 Family Resources survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

3. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.

4. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.

5. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response. The sample size for lone parent families in poverty who work is particularly small, so results for this family type should be treated with particular caution.

6, Benefit receipt is based on self-assessment and therefore may be subject to misreporting. The Family Resources Survey is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits.

7. The population groups include subgroups of families and households. Families are defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and any dependent children; from January 2006 same-sex partners (civil partners and cohabitees) are included in the same benefit unit. A household is made up of one of more families.

8. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.

9. Proportions of families and households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

10. Numbers of families and households have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

11. "—" indicates less than 0.5%.

12. Poverty has been defined as: Relative low income: households with equivalised households incomes below 60% of contemporary median household income, before or after housing costs.

13. For this analysis, disability is defined as having any long-standing illness, disability or impairment that leads to a substantial difficulty with one or more areas of the individual's life. Everyone classified as disabled under this definition would also be classified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 (and the Disability Discrimination Act which was in force at the time of the survey). However, some individuals classified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 would not be captured by this definition, as the Family Resources survey, the source of the households below average income series, does not fully collect this information.

14. No adjustment is made to disposable household income to take into account any additional costs that may be incurred due to an illness or disability, because research shows these vary significantly in level and nature, and there is no general agreement on how to measure these costs.

15. A household or family is defined as workless if no-one within the household or family is classified as working; otherwise the household or family is defined as working, so is wider than just those individuals classified as unemployed.

16. We have excluded households or families that do not contain any working-age adults. The categories specified are not mutually exclusive and the same individuals can be counted in more than one group.

Source:

Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2009/10, DWP

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of workless households that are in poverty and have one or more adults who is disabled and one or more adults of working age also include at least one child. [72213]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of various groups of individuals living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The following table shows the proportion and number of workless households that are in poverty and have one or more adults who is disabled and one or more adults of working age that also include at least one child.

Proportion and number of workless households that are in poverty and have one or more adults who is disabled and one or more adults of working age which also include at least one child, United Kingdom, 2009-10

	Workless households in poverty with one or more disabled adults and one or more working-age adults with at least one child	
Low income	*Number (Million)*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
Before housing costs	0.2	14
After housing costs	0.3	26

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc
2. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2009-10 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
4. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
5. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
6. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.
7. Number of households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
8. Proportion of households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
9. Poverty has been defined as:
relative low income: households with equivalised households incomes below 60% of contemporary median household income, before or after housing costs.
10. For this analysis, disability is defined as having any long-standing illness, disability or impairment that leads to a substantial difficulty with one or more areas of the individual's life. Everyone classified as disabled under this definition would also be classified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 (and the Disability Discrimination Act which was in force at the time of the survey). However, some individuals classified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 would not be captured by this definition, as the Family Resources Survey, the source of the Households Below Average Income series, does not fully collect this information.
11. No adjustment is made to disposable household income to take into account any additional costs that may be incurred due to an illness or disability, because research shows these vary significantly in level and nature, and there is no general agreement on how to measure these costs.
12. A household is defined as workless if no one within the household is classified as working; otherwise the household is defined as working, so is wider than just those individuals classified as unemployed.

Source:
Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2009-10, DWP.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of workless households living in poverty include *(a)* one or more and *(b)* two or more disabled adults. [72214]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of various groups of individuals living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The following table shows the proportion and number of workless households that are in poverty also include *(a)* one or more and *(b)* two or more disabled adults. Households that contain only adults above pension age have been excluded from this analysis.

Proportion and number of workless households that are in poverty with at least one working-age adult that also include (a) one or more and (b) two or more disabled adults, United Kingdom, 2009-10

	Before housing costs		*After housing costs*	
Workless households with at least one working-age adult in poverty with	*Number (Million)*	*Proportion (Percentage)*	*Number (Million)*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
One or more disabled adults	0.8	44	1.1	45
Two or more disabled adults	0.1	6	0.1	6

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc
2. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2009-10 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
4. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
5. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
6. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.
7. Number of households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
8. Proportion of households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
9. Poverty has been defined as:
relative low income: households with equivalised households incomes below 60% of contemporary median household income, before or after housing costs
10. For this analysis, disability is defined as having any long-standing illness, disability or impairment that leads to a substantial difficulty with one or more areas of the individual's life. Everyone classified as disabled under this definition would also be classified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 (and the Disability Discrimination Act which was in force at the time of the survey). However, some individuals classified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 would not be captured by this definition, as the Family Resources Survey, the source of the Households Below Average Income series, does not fully collect this information.
11. No adjustment is made to disposable household income to take into account any additional costs that may be incurred due to an illness or disability, because research shows these vary significantly in level and nature, and there is no general agreement on how to measure these costs.
12. A household is defined as workless if no one within the household is classified as working; otherwise the household is defined as working, so is wider than just those individuals classified as unemployed. We have excluded households that do not contain working-age adults.

Source:
Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2009-10, DWP.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people of working age, in work and living in poverty are women in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment. [72215]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of various groups of individuals living in poverty across the UK are published in Households Below Average Income Series (HBAI, 2009-10). This uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size using various thresholds of low income poverty. This analysis looks at individual level poverty, using a threshold of the 60% of contemporary median equivalised disposable household income.

The following table shows the number and proportion of working age women, in full time and part time employment that have income below 60% of contemporary median household income, both Before and After Housing Costs in 2009-10, the most recent data available.

Table 1: Numbers and proportions of people of working age, in work and living in poverty who are women in (a) full-time and (b) part-time employment, Before Housing Costs and After Housing Costs, 2009-10, United Kingdom

	Before Housing Costs		*After Housing Costs*	
Million and percentage of people of working age, in work and living in poverty who are:	*Number (million)*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Number (million)*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Women in full-time employment	0.4	19	0.7	22
Women in part-time employment	0.5	25	0.8	24

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost and an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. Proportions of individuals in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage point and numbers of individuals have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of working age *(a)* parents living in poverty as a couple and *(b)* lone parents have at least one child (i) over and (ii) under five; [72216]

(2) how many and what proportion of people of working age and living in households in poverty are lone parents; [72217]

(3) how many and what proportion of people of working age in work and living in households in poverty are lone parents. [72218]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of various groups of individuals living in poverty across the UK are published in Households Below Average Income Series (HBAI). This uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size using various thresholds of low income poverty. This analysis looks at household level poverty, using a threshold of the 60% of contemporary median equivalised disposable household income

Data provided in the following tables for the United Kingdom are for 2009-10, the most recent year for which data are available.

Table 1: Number and proportion of working age people living in households with income below 60% of contemporary median income Before Housing Costs (BHC) and After Housing Costs (AHC) who are lone parents

	Million and percentage of individuals			
	BHC		*AHC*	
	Million	*Percentage*	*Million*	*Percentage*
2009-10	0.5	9	0.9	11

Table 2: Number and proportion of working age people in work living in households with income below 60% of contemporary median income Before Housing Costs (BHC) and After Housing Costs (AHC) who are lone parents

	Million and percentage of individuals			
	BHC		*AHC*	
	Million	*Percentage*	*Million*	*Percentage*
2009-10	0.1	6	0.2	7

Table 3: Number and proportion of working age people who are (a) living in a couple and (b) lone parents that have at least one child in certain age bands

	Million and percentage of individuals			
	Couple		*Lone parent*	
At least one child	*Million*	*Percentage*	*Million*	*Percentage*
Aged 0 to 4	5.0	44	0.6	31
Aged 5 and above	8.4	73	1.5	80

Table 4a: Number and proportion of working age people living in households with income below 60% of contemporary median income Before Housing Costs who are (a) parents in a couple and (b) lone parents that have at least one child in certain age bands

	Million and percentage of individuals			
	Couple		*Lone parent*	
At least one child	*Million*	*Percentage*	*Million*	*Percentage*
Aged 0 to 4	0.8	46	0.2	35
Aged 5 and above	1.3	74	0.4	79

Table 4b: Number and proportion of working age people living in households with income below 60% of contemporary median income After Housing Costs who are (a) parents in a couple and (b) lone parents that have at least one child in certain age bands

	Million and percentage of individuals			
	Couple		*Lone parent*	
At least one child	*Million*	*Percentage*	*Million*	*Percentage*
Aged 0 to 4	1.3	50	0.3	38

Table 4b: Number and proportion of working age people living in households with income below 60% of contemporary median income After Housing Costs who are (a) parents in a couple and (b) lone parents that have at least one child in certain age bands

	Million and percentage of individuals			
	Couple		*Lone parent*	
At least one child	*Million*	*Percentage*	*Million*	*Percentage*
Aged 5 and above	1.8	70	0.7	76

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
4. Proportions of individuals in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage point and numbers of individuals have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. Note that proportions do not add to 100% as parents can have children in each of the different age ranges.
5. Figures have been presented on both Before and After Housing Cost bases. For Before Housing Costs figures, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, buildings insurance payments and ground rent, and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
6. It is unclear whether five-year-olds should be included in either of the splits requested. We have included five-year-olds in the older age range in line with school years and the standard age splits presented in the HBAI publication.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Redundancy: Manufacturing Industries

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will calculate the cost to the public purse of redundancies in rail manufacturing in the East Midlands, including support for affected individuals and families in the comprehensive spending review period. [71160]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The latest employment figures for the quarter May to July 2011 (seasonally adjusted) show a growth over the year of 24,000 in the UK and 51,000 in the East Midlands regions.

This net improvement in employment over the last year has happened despite redundancies occurring both in the East Midlands and the UK. It is unfortunate but there are always redundancies, job losses and separations. Over the last year in the East Midlands, however, these job losses and separations have been more than offset by the numbers being recruited.

So, because there is no direct relationship between redundancies in a specific firm or sector and wider labour market development it is not possible to calculate the cost to the public purse of a specific redundancy. The outcome will depend on the state of the economy, whether the redundant person takes up a benefit and how long they remain on benefit before they leave—either to go into work or another destination.

Government policy aims to minimise these costs to the public purse and also the problems faced by the redundant workers. It is aiming to establish a system that fosters and delivers growth and also labour market policies that help the people made redundant back into work as soon as possible.

Rents: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the average income of *(a)* social rental, *(b)* private rental and *(c)* all households in Ashfield constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [71780]

Steve Webb: We use Households Below Average Income data to provide estimates of median incomes. However, the sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for small areas such as that requested.

The following table shows the median equivalised disposable household income by tenure and all households for the east midlands region of England, Before and After Housing Costs.

Median equivalised disposable household income, for households, by tenure and for all households for the east midlands region of England, three year average 2007-08 to 2009-10, Before and After Housing Costs

	Median equivalised weekly disposable household income for families (£)	
Tenure type	*BHC*	*AHC*
Social renters	290	229
Private renters	328	249
All households	380	345

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost and an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year. For countries and regions within the UK, three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.
6. Weekly incomes are presented in 2009-10 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound.
7. Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partnerships and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one of more families and is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). In line with the wording of the question, analysis has been carried out at the family level.
8. The estimates for All Households include those households who are owner occupiers as well as those in the social and privately rented sector.

Source:

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 2007-08 to 2009/-10

Sick Leave

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of people in each *(a)* nation of the UK and *(b)* region of England who were on long-term sick leave in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [70536]

Chris Grayling: There are few reliable sources of sickness absence data in Great Britain. Employers pay statutory sick pay (and in some cases occupational sick pay) but are not required to submit this information to the Government unless they are seeking reimbursement for monies paid under the Percentage Threshold Scheme.

Consequently, there are no comprehensive centrally recorded administrative data and there is greater reliance on survey data.

Department for Work and Pensions' analysis of the "Employee Health and Well-being at Work Survey" (DWP Research Report 751) found that in 2009, 4% of employees in Great Britain had absences of more than four weeks. More than four weeks is commonly used to define long-term sickness absence. This equates to around 1 million employees. Breakdowns by nations and regions of England are unavailable due to small sample sizes. Data for other years are also unavailable.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent communications he has received from the European Commission on increasing benefit payments from the UK Government to citizens of other EU countries. [72192]

Chris Grayling: On 29 September the Government received a communication from the European Commission in the form of a Reasoned Opinion in which the Commission states that the application of the 'Right to Reside Test' to claims for certain residence-based non-contributory benefits constitutes an unjustified discrimination prohibited by the EU regulations on social security co-ordination.

As a result, the Commission invites the United Kingdom "to take the necessary measures" to comply with the Reasoned Opinion within two months.

The Government believe that it is right that we support those who work and pay their taxes here, but it is clearly completely unacceptable that we should be asked to open our welfare system to people who have never worked or contributed in the United Kingdom and have no intention of doing so. I am surprised that the European Commission has chosen to write in this way on this very sensitive issue, especially when the UK and a number of other EU member states have asked the Commission to reconsider the rules.

The Government will consider all the details of the Commission's Reasoned Opinion before deciding what action to take.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people convicted of benefit fraud continued to receive benefits in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and how many such people were resident in (i) the North West, (ii) Greater Manchester and (iii) Bury North constituency. [70986]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received a criminal conviction for benefit fraud where the amount of fraud involved was *(a)* £0 to £1,000, *(b)* £1,101 to £5,000, *(c)* £5,001 to £10,000 and *(d)* over £10,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [71054]

Chris Grayling: In 2010-11 a total of 8,598 people received a criminal conviction for benefit fraud. Information on the amount of benefit fraud involved in these cases is as follows:

Overpayment value	*Number of cases*
(a) £0 to £1,000	574
(b) £1,001 to £5,000	3,417
(c) £5,001 to £10,000	2,149
(d) Over £10,000	2,458

Sources:
Fraud Referral and Intelligence Management System (FRAIMS) (England and Wales only) and local management information (Scotland).

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were found to have committed benefit fraud in each of the last five years; and what proportion were prosecuted in court. [71076]

Chris Grayling: Information on how many people were found to have committed benefit fraud in each of the last five years and the proportion of these that were prosecuted in court is as follows:

	Number committing fraud	*Proportion prosecuted in court (Percentage)*
2006-07	28,647	30
2007-08	29,132	33
2008-09	28,180	31
2009-10	29,406	28
2010-11	31,797	31

Note:
Figures based on the number of individuals that were given a caution, administrative penalty and conviction, and what proportion these equate to against the total number of court prosecutions for the same period.
Sources:
Information extracted from the Fraud Referral and Intelligence Management System (FRAIMS) and local management information (Scotland).

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were convicted of benefit fraud in each of the last five years; and how many of those convicted, who received a custodial sentence, had committed fraud amounting to *(a)* £0 to £1,000, *(b)* £1,001 to £5,000, *(c)* £5001 to £10,000 and *(d)* over £10,000. [71077]

Chris Grayling: Information on how many people were convicted of benefit fraud in each of the last five years and those that received a custodial sentence is as follows:

	Number convicted of benefit fraud	*Number that received a custodial sentence*
2006-07	6,861	1,146 (includes 530 suspended custodial sentences)
2007-08	7,745	1,483 (includes 961 suspended custodial sentences)
2008-09	6,700	1,308 (includes 841 suspended custodial sentences)
2009-10	7,040	1,340 (includes 929 suspended custodial sentences)
2010-11	8,598	1,304 (includes 939 suspended custodial sentences)

Information on the value of the frauds of those convicted who received a custodial sentence is only available for the last year (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011) and is as follows:

(a) £0 to £1,000: 237 (of which 72 relates to suspended sentences)

(b) £1,001 to £5,000: 44 (of which 27 relates to suspended sentences)

(c) £5,001 to £10,000: 88 (of which 77 relates to suspended sentences)

(d) over £10,000: 935 (of which 763 relates to suspended sentences)

Source:

Information extracted from the Fraud Referral and Intelligence Management System (FRAIMS) and local management information (Scotland). Prosecution and conviction data by monetary value are not available prior to 1 April 2010.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people convicted of benefit fraud continued to receive benefits in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and how many such people were resident in (i) the north-west, (ii) east Lancashire and (iii) Pendle constituency. [71776]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were convicted for benefit fraud and what proportion of all benefit claimants this represented in each of the last five years. [72033]

Chris Grayling: Information on how many people were convicted of benefit fraud in each of the last five years and the proportion of all benefit claimants this represents is as follows:

	Number convicted of benefit fraud	*Proportion of all benefit claims (percentage)*
2006-07	6,861	0.04
2007-08	7,745	0.04
2008-09	6,700	0.04
2009-10	7,040	0.04
2010-11	8,598	0.05

Note:

Figures based on the number of individuals convicted of benefit fraud for the last five years and those numbers expressed as proportions of the total number of benefit claimants at February of that year.

Source:

Information on convictions extracted from the Fraud Referral and Intelligence Management System (FRAIMS) and local management information (Scotland). Information on benefit claims taken from DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Unemployment: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with partner agencies on the rate of unemployment in Birmingham, Ladywood; and what steps are being taken to reduce that rate. [71918]

Chris Grayling: The Department's new flexible delivery model enables Jobcentre Plus district managers to deliver local labour-market solutions. This allows the harnessing of all resources in a particular area to meet the challenge of getting as many people into work as possible, including a stronger focus on working collaboratively with key partners.

Under the Work programme, which was launched on 10 June 2011 and is now in place nationally, providers are free to design support based on individual and local need and they will be paid primarily for supporting claimants into employment and helping them stay there for longer than ever before, with higher payments for supporting the hardest to help. All three Work programme providers contracted to deliver services in Birmingham have one main site and at least one site within the Ladywood constituency. In addition, subcontractor there are eight Enterprise clubs and 11 Work clubs in the constituency.

Jobcentre Plus also works with a number of employers and local partners to maximise the employment opportunities available to the local Ladywood community.

The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership was set up in October 2010 to help strengthen local economies, encourage economic development and enterprise, and improve skills across the region. The partnership is now one of the largest in the country, encompassing a population of over 2 million people, and 840,000 jobs.

In addition, Jobcentre Plus in Birmingham and Solihull are working with voluntary organisations such as British Heart Foundation and Barnardo's and have signposted over 450 customers to a wide range of volunteering opportunities. Jobcentre Plus is also working closely with all colleges within the catchment area of the constituency. A range of provision is available to meet the skill needs of customers and the demands of the local labour market.

The Department is working with Birmingham city council and local third sector partners to test whether a more personalised, holistic approach, would be more effective for those people with multiple barriers to return to work.

Unemployment: Training

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides to mature unemployed people to retrain and reskill that does not affect their entitlement to benefits. [72120]

Steve Webb: Jobcentre Plus aims to deliver a tailored flexible package of back-to-work support to all jobseekers that includes work-related training as well as job-search support. Older jobseekers have the same access to a comprehensive menu of individually-tailored help as those aged under 50 years (apart from the specific measures aimed at improving youth employment for jobseekers aged under 25 years). The Work programme will also provide support for those of all ages who are more at risk of long-term unemployment.

Older claimants of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance (work-related activity group) are eligible for fully-funded training to help them into work. Jobcentre Plus will work closely with skills providers at a local level to ensure that the training offered meets the needs of both claimants and employers. Claimants of these benefits can also participate in the sector-based work academies, which offer pre-employment training, work placements and guaranteed interviews in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills recently announced greater freedoms for colleges to deliver fully-subsidised training to people on other benefits, as long as the training is linked to helping the individual back into work. It will be for colleges and training providers to decide what training is offered locally.

Universal Credit: West Lothian

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the introduction of universal credit on *(a)* West Lothian Council and *(b)* housing associations in West Lothian. [72164]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Universal credit will be delivered by DWP, drawing on the expertise of HMRC and local authorities. The best of the current capability will be used to deliver the new service, taking the opportunity to modernise and improve it to deliver better efficiency for the taxpayer and better service for claimants. As DWP starts to build the organisation to deliver universal credit, and we have yet to settle on the precise detail, it is likely some of those skills will exist within local authorities. We will therefore always look to include local authority staff in our thinking.

(b) The Government's intention is to pay universal credit to the claimant in the majority of cases. The Government believes that this policy will replicate the budgeting skills that people will need when working and will help to break the cycle of welfare dependency that is a feature of the current benefit system. My Department is aware that this will be a big change for housing associations, who are used to receiving housing benefit direct from local authorities under the current scheme. The Government are convinced that, with the right support for tenants and landlords, this policy will not affect housing associations adversely. This support will be tested by a number of projects which the Minister for Welfare Reform, my noble Friend Lord Freud, announced on 14 September 2011. The lessons learned from these projects will allow us to refine this support before universal credit goes live in 2013.

DWP has not specifically made an assessment of the effect of the introduction of Universal Credit on West Lothian Council and housing associations in West Lothian.

Work Capability Assessment: Atos Healthcare

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the criteria used by Atos Healthcare to assess the suitability of an applicant to become an approved healthcare professional undertaking work capability assessments. [71767]

Chris Grayling: The chief medical adviser (CMA) to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) approves healthcare professionals (HCP) to carry out assessments on behalf of the Secretary of State. Approval is dependent on strict recruitment criteria, completion of a course of training approved by the CMA and evidence of satisfactory performance.

The core requirements for the role of the HCP as a disability analyst are as follows:

Full and unconditional General Medical Council (or European economic area equivalent) registration and a current license to practice or Nursing and Midwifery Council registration or Health Professions Council registration

At least three years' post-registration experience in a broad based role (in individual cases, solely at the discretion of the CMA, the requirements that no conditions be attached to registration and that medical personnel must have a minimum of three years post-registration experience may be waived)

Skilled in the analysis of clinical information and medical evidence or experienced as a GP or in related disciplines involving broad-based examination, investigation and diagnostic skills

Ability to produce clear, concise reports

Tact, sensitivity, honesty and integrity

A commitment to client confidentiality

Comfortable working to targets and specified standards

Ability to work unsupervised but know when to ask for support

Evidence of ongoing professional development to necessary standards

IT literate

Excellent communication skills

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 681W, on work capability assessment: Atos Healthcare, how he defines reviewed regularly; what the results were of *(a)* the last five reviews of the continued suitability of Atos Healthcare to perform work capability assessments and *(b)* the last 12 performance monitoring exercises; whether such reviews have identified any of the standards required of Atos Healthcare in their contract to conduct the work capability assessment programme; and if he will make a statement. [72237]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare provision is reviewed monthly. Results of the last five reviews are that Atos Healthcare remains suitable to perform work capability assessments. The results of the last 12 reviews are that Atos Healthcare remains suitable to provide medical assessment services.

These reviews have not introduced new standards for work capability assessments. However, Professor Harrington's review, "An Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment", recommended the inclusion of a personalised summary statement and this is being implemented for all work capability assessments.

Work Capability Assessment: Health Professions

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of approved healthcare professionals undertaking work capability assessments were *(a)* qualified doctors registered with the General Medical Council, *(b)* qualified nurses registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, *(c)* qualified physiotherapists registered with the Health Professions Council and *(d)* other qualified medical professionals in the latest period for which figures are available. [71769]

Chris Grayling: In answer to the question, the figures below are based on work capability assessment (WCA) exams completed in the month of August 2011 as this is the latest period for which figures are available.

33% of approved healthcare professionals (HCP) undertaking work capability assessments are qualified doctors registered with the General Medical Council.

62% of approved HCPs undertaking work capability assessments are qualified nurses registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and 5% are qualified physiotherapists registered with the Health Professions Council.

The law defines "a Healthcare Professional" as a registered doctor, registered nurse, physiotherapist, or occupational therapist. This came into effect on 3 July 2007 in Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1626 The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No.2) Regulations 2007.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided for the Adult Education Bursary for Certificate of Higher Education in each of the last three years; what proportion of the bursary was awarded in the form of *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much funding will be provided in 2012. [71397]

Mr Hayes: The Department has allocated a budget of £2.911 million for Adult Education Bursaries for 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, and for 2011-12.

The budget is administered by the Residential Colleges Committee, which in turn distributes it to the colleges that qualify. These are an established group of residential colleges in England which provide a range of intensive support to disadvantaged adults, to gain confidence, skills and qualifications in preparation for further study or work.

The Skills Funding Agency collects individualised data about learners and types of course, but does not link this to specific awards.

The budget for 2012-13 will be announced in the Skills Investment Strategy, which will be published later this year.

Apprentices

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were taken up in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough in each of the last 12 months. [72507]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows a quarterly breakdown of apprenticeship starts in England, West Midlands region and Dudley local education authority, in the first nine months of the 2010/11 academic year, from August 2010 to April 2011, based on provisional data.

The Statistical First Release (SFR) is used for the latest apprenticeship figures. Monthly apprenticeship data are not available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in England, West Midlands Region and Dudley local education authority between 1 August 2010 and 30 April 2011

	Provisional			
	August 2010 to October 2010	*November 2010 to January 2011*	*February 2011 to April 2011*	*August 2010 to April 2011*
England	122,200	93,900	110,600	326,700
Dudley Local Education Authority	780	640	910	2,320
West Midlands Government Office Region	13,440	11,270	13,650	38,350

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 except those for England which are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Geography Information Is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of higher apprenticeships that will be created in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency. [70791]

Mr Hayes: The Apprenticeships programme is demand led. Government provides funding and forecasts the overall number of places that may be afforded.

In July the Prime Minister launched a £25 million Higher Apprenticeship Fund to support the expansion of Higher Apprenticeships helping to deliver up to an additional 10,000 advanced and higher level apprenticeships over this Parliament. The closing date for bids is 16 September and we expect to announce the successful bids in November.

Arms Export Controls

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what further revocations of arms export licences have been made to countries in North Africa and the Middle East subsequent to those detailed in the document Cm. 8079; and if he will provide this information in the same format as in Annex 1 of Cm. 8079. [71627]

Mr Prisk: One such licence was revoked on 24 May 2011, as follows:

End user country	*Annual report summary*	*Rating*	*Reason for revocation*
Syria	Small arms ammunition	ML3	Due to the arms embargo imposed by the EU this licence was reassessed and found to contravene Criteria 1

Business: Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to address any potential skills shortages arising from recent changes to the immigration rules. [70563]

Mr Hayes: The Government aims to reduce net migration while ensuring that the UK remains open for business. The changes to the migration system will continue to enable companies to bring in the skilled migrants necessary for growth. A long-term approach to addressing the UK's reliance on migrant workers can only be achieved through a significant shift in employer behaviour and working practices. It will require action from employers, the immigration system and through coordinated cross-Government action. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has already begun to take this forward, working closely with relevant Sector Skills Councils and employers.

More widely, we are reforming the skills system so that it delivers the skills needed to return the economy to sustainable growth. As part of our skills strategy, we aim to reduce skill deficiencies at local, regional or sectoral level, so that they are quickly identified and tackled through the demand-led skills system. National Skills Academies, an expanded Apprenticeships programme and greater freedoms and flexibilities for colleges and other learning providers are all contributing to delivering the skills that employers want. The Government have also established the £50 million a year Growth and Innovation Fund to help in tackling the skills shortages that hold companies back. Training to support the unemployed will play its part with more personalised programmes tailored towards local job opportunities.

Consumers: Protection

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the coalition agreement commitment to introduce stronger consumer protections, including measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges; and if he will make a statement. [72163]

Mr Davey: The Government are taking forward the commitment to end unfair bank charges in the context of a wider strategic approach to strengthen and streamline consumer protections and advocacy, and as part of the joint Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and HM Treasury Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency Review.

In July 2011, this Department and HM Treasury published a summary of responses to the call for evidence to the review. The evidence shows that there have been significant developments in the market in recent years. As part of the Office of Fair Trading's work, banks have committed to introduce measures to improve the transparency of unarranged overdraft charges and many have also revised their charging structures. However, there are still serious concerns about how charges affect consumers, particularly where charges may not be clear or transparent. The Government are working with current account providers to determine the most appropriate course of action to deliver further improvements to consumers. We will, however, regulate to address consumer detriment if suitable alternatives cannot be agreed.

The Government will make an announcement on this later this year.

In relation to financial transaction charges, the Government supported an amendment to the consumer rights directive to ban payment surcharges that exceed the costs borne by the trader for use of that means of payment. This will address consumer concerns about the high level of fees charged by some businesses when consumers pay by debit or credit card. The directive should be adopted by the EU shortly and will be implemented into UK law.

Debts: Advisory Services

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Government on funding for debt advice in Scotland after the end of the Financial Inclusion Fund. [72593]

Mr Davey: BIS Ministers have not had discussions with Scottish Ministers on funding for debt advice in Scotland. Officials have, however, met officials from the Scottish Government as part of ongoing dialogue about the future of debt advice provision.

In order to place debt advice in the future on a more secure footing, the Money Advice Service has agreed to take on responsibility for the coordination of debt advice services from April 2012. The Money Advice Service will carry out a detailed review of the current debt advice landscape to identify the best way that these services can be delivered, and have met Scottish Government officials as part of their work to develop a model which ensures that debt advice is delivered in the most effective and efficient way.

Advertising

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* newspaper advertising in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms between June 2001 and May 2002; and what the total cost to the public purse was. [68377]

Mr Davey: For expenditure on advertising by this Department through the Central Office of Information for financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on 23 July 2004, *Official Report,* column 752W.

Information on publicity expenditure from centrally held budgets is contained in the Government's expenditure plans and, more recently, the Department's annual departmental reports, which are available in the Libraries of the House. Figures relating to specific media, other information campaigns, and information on publicity and advertising by non-departmental public bodies could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 5 June 2009 by merging the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). In June 2007 BERR, DIUS and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) were created from the former Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the former Department for Education and Skills (DFES). This reply contains information relating solely to the former DTI.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72681]

Mr Davey: The Department currently uses Carlson Wagonlit Travel Ltd for the purchase of airline tickets.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72695]

Mr Davey: The Department uses Carlson Wagonlit Travel Ltd (CWT) for the purchase of airline tickets and works closely with CWT to achieve best value through regular contract service review meetings. The contract with CWT is part of a Government Procurement Service (formerly Buying Solutions) framework contract and the contractual obligation under the framework requires, amongst other things, that the contractor provides:

1. Access to value for money fares;
2. Provision of lowest fare availability and challenge to higher fare use;
3. Access to low cost carriers and (to 31 July 2011) the Government Air programme;
4. Analysis of spend and identification of cost saving opportunities; and
5. Provision of savings and missed savings management information

Additionally, all air travel bookings through CWT are pre-notified to line managers who are required to consider and approve the need for travel and the overall cost involved.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72558]

Mr Davey: This Department uses the following guidance in commissioning external legal services:

The Attorney-General's guidelines on the use of the private sector for Government legal work

Treasury Solicitor's Department's guidance on the use of counsel

Government Legal Service guidance on the best practice for Government lawyers managing private sector provision of legal services

Government Legal Services procurement protocol

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills procurement code and procurement guidance.

Wherever possible, external legal services are sourced from panels of counsel or solicitors firms which have been appointed following open and competitive selection processes. External solicitors required for advisory work are virtually always sourced from the legal services framework agreement negotiated by Buying Solutions (or as it is now called the Government Procurement Service). Very occasionally the Department goes "off panel" where a particular expertise is required, for example Departments are required to seek the Attorney-General's nomination to use leading counsel.

The average hourly rate paid to solicitors and barristers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

This Department has paid hourly rates to panel barristers, solicitors and criminal advocates as set out below. In other circumstances, such as off panel barrister nominations through the Attorney-General's Office, the fee would be negotiable as part of the procurement process.

Civil Work—hourly rates paid to barristers as set out on the Treasury Solicitor's Department website at:

http://www.tsol.gov.uk/PanelCounsel/appointments_to_panel.htm

		Hourly rate
First Treasury Counsel		£220
Queen's Counsel		£180 to £250
London Panel Rates	A Panel of counsel	£120
	B Panel of counsel	£100
	C Panel of counsel	£60 to £80
Regional Panel Rates	10 + years call	£110
	Between 5-10 years call	£90
	Under 5 years call	£60

Civil Work—hourly rates paid to solicitors for advisory work

External solicitors appointed under the Legal Services framework agreement may only charge up to the amount quoted on the framework, hourly rates reflecting different grades of fee earner depending on their years qualified.

Criminal Work - Advocates

	Hourly rate
Queen's Counsel	£185
Standing Counsel	£125

Attorney-General unified list of prosecution advocates

	Hourly rate
A List	£95
B List	£80
C List	£70

Criminal work - Solicitors magistrates court

	Hourly rate
Preparation	£49.70
Advocacy	£62.35

Criminal work - Solicitors crown court

	Preparation	*Advocacy*	*Attendance*
Senior Solicitor	£53	£64.50	£42.25
Solicitor	£45	£56.00	£34.00

While we do record instances of where external solicitors and barristers are used and the hourly rate(s) applicable in each case we do not aggregate them to calculate the average overall hourly rate and therefore the information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Details of advocates who are currently appointed to the Treasury Solicitor's (civil) panels are available at:

www.tsol.gov.uk/attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

Details of the Buying Solutions Legal Services Framework contract and the firms appointed can be found at:

http://www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk/search/overview/?search_1=legal+services

Details of some payments made to solicitors and barristers for legal services commissioned in 2010-11 are available on the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/financial

Ministerial Meetings

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67175]

Mr Davey: The Department does not hold centrally the information you request and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67584]

Mr Davey: This information is not recorded.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by his Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68550]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 6 September 2011]:* The Department supports a number of helplines—including the Pay and Work Rights Helpline and the Business Link advice line. In terms of helplines operated by the Department the answer is as follows:

The Department operates a central Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) inquiry line (020 7215 5000) at a cost of approximately £19,000 per annum to provide businesses and members of the public with advice on the work of the Department and to connect callers to BIS officials. Additionally we operate three other help lines:

0845 015 0010 BIS publications order line

0845 015 0020 BIS publications order line (Fax)

0845 015 0030 BIS publications order line (Minicom)

at a total cost to date this year of approximately £150.

United Kingdom Trade and Investment (UKTI) a joint Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Foreign and Commonwealth Office body, operate a helpline with an approximate cost of £24,500 per annum. All figures noted, apply to rental and maintenance costs and exclude staff costs.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average *(a)* reading and *(b)* mathematics age was of those held in (i) young offenders' institutions and (ii) prisons by 10 year age bands in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the non-prison population comparators were in each such group. [72060]

Mr Hayes: Data are not collected on either the reading age or the mathematics age of prisoners or those held in youth detention.

The most recent, large-scale analysis of the reading and numeracy levels of prisoners remains the Home Office data published in 2003[1] based on basic skills screening assessments. This showed that 37% of prisoners had reading skills below Level 1 and 43% had numeracy skills below Level 1.

The closest non-prison comparator is the 2003 Skills for Life Survey[2], which showed that 16% of the population had literacy skills below Level 1 and 46% had numeracy skills below Level.

[1] Prison Statistics England and Wales 2002

[2] Skills for Life Survey: A National Needs and Impact Survey of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT Skills

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the likely effects of the Agency Workers Regulations on *(a)* business costs and *(b)* productivity; and if he will make a statement. [72141]

Mr Davey: The January 2010 BIS impact assessment "European Parliament and Council Directive on working conditions for temporary agency workers" estimated costs to business at £1.5 billion. The impact assessment identifies a potential benefit of increased productivity through improved access to training for agency workers.

The Government have worked closely with businesses and the recruitment industry to help them prepare for the changes and have published guidance that will help employers, agencies and agency workers fully understand their obligations and rights as of 1 October.

I refer my right hon. Friend to the statement I made to Parliament on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of employees who will be affected by the coming into force of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 in *(a)* Livingston constituency, *(b)* West Lothian local authority area and *(c)* Scotland. [72381]

Mr Davey: The focus of the January 2010 BIS impact assessment "European Parliament and Council Directive on working conditions for temporary agency workers" was on the impact on agency workers rather than employees. There is unlikely to be a substantial impact on employees as a result of the agency workers regulations. The impact assessment does not provide a breakdown for the number of agency workers or employees that will be affected by the regulations at constituency and local authority level or within the devolved Administrations.

The Government have worked closely with businesses and the recruitment industry to help them prepare for the changes and have published guidance that will help employers, agencies and agency workers fully understand their obligations and rights as of 1 October.

Employment: Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to adopt the Think Small First principle in respect of the flow of employment regulation; and if so how this objective will be achieved. [72161]

Mr Davey: The Government have gone further than the EU's "Think Small First" principle by recognising the impact that the regulatory burden can have on the growth of the smallest of businesses. That is why, in April, the Government introduced a moratorium exempting micro and start-up business from new domestic regulation for three years, which also extends to employment laws.

As set out in the "Plan for Growth", the Government have also scrapped a number of proposals which would have cost businesses including small and medium-sized enterprises around £340 million a year, such as not extending the right to request Time to Train to companies with fewer than 250 employees.

Going beyond regulation, the Government have brought forward a number of measures to support small business growth, including extending the current small business rate relief holiday for one year; increasing the rate of small business research and development tax relief and reforming public sector procurement practices to make it much easier for small businesses to access contracting opportunities.

Engineering: Graduates

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students graduated from universities in England with degrees in engineering in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010 and *(e)* 2011. [72198]

Mr Willetts: The latest data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

Qualifiers[1] from first degree engineering courses English higher education institutions academic years 2006/07 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Qualifiers*
2006/07	13,605
2007/08	14,015
2008/09	14,410
2009/10	15,370

[1] Covers qualifiers of all domiciles from full-time and part-time courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

English Language: Education

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Communities and Local Government and *(b)* the Home Department on the effects on measures to promote community cohesion and integration of planned reductions in funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages. [68560]

Mr Hayes: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has met the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), and the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on a number of occasions to discuss a wide range of issues.

This Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government are working in partnership to develop new forms of support for individuals who need language skills to assist with integration and community cohesion. I will announce further details in due course.

The potential impact on adult learners participating in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses of the changes to eligibility criteria for fee remission proposed in the Government's "Skills for Sustainable Growth" strategy (November 2010) are described in an Equality Impact Assessment, published by this Department on 18 July 2011. This can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/e/11-1045-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-equality-impact

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students were enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses in Coventry local authority area in each year since 2005-06; and what funding his Department provided for ESOL courses in Coventry local authority area in each such year. [70347]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of Government-funded learners in Coventry local education authority participating on an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course from 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which full-year data are available.

Number of learners participating on ESOL courses in Coventry local authority, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	Number
2005/06	2,330
2006/07	2,160
2007/08	2,550
2008/09[1]	2,110

Number of learners participating on ESOL courses in Coventry local authority, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	Number
2009/10[1]	2,310

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand-led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined. More Information on demand-led funding is available at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:

1. These data cover participation in Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further Education/Learner Responsive provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Geography is based on learner's home postcode.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June:

> http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on historical ESOL funding at the local geography level is not available as funding is not allocated to FE colleges and providers at the learning aim level. However, the Skills Funding Agency publish information on adult (19 years +) allocations made to individual colleges, providers and employers for each academic year available at the following link:

> http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/programmes/

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many adult learners in Coventry local authority area were eligible for a fee remission for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such people will no longer be eligible for fee remission following the introduction of his proposed changes to ESOL; [70348]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of demand for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in the Coventry local authority area; [70349]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of women from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities who will enter employment of the planned reduction in funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. [70350]

Mr Hayes: The Government currently provide 50% fee remission for all learners in England participating on ESOL courses who are eligible for public funded skills provision. Those on income based-benefits are eligible for full fee remission. Further education colleges and training organisations also have local discretion to provide fully subsidised courses for people on a wider range of benefits where the training is to help them enter employment.

From August 2011, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment, full Government funding will be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of jobseekers allowance or in the employment and support allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group. We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

This Department does not make estimates of the demand for courses. Further education (FE) colleges and training providers are responsible for meeting the needs of their local community, and increased freedoms and flexibilities that we have introduced will help them respond and determine within their funding where this is prioritised.

The potential impact on adult learners participating in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses of the changes to eligibility criteria for fee remission proposed in the Government's 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' strategy (November 2010) are described in an equality impact assessment, published by this Department on 18 July 2011. This can be found at:

> http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/e/11-1045-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-equality-impact

Provision for 2009/10

The following table shows adult (19+) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) participation in Coventry local education authority for 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available.

Adult (19+) ESOL learner participation in Coventry local authority, 2009/10

	Number
2009/10	2,310

Notes:

1. These data cover participation in Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further Education/Learner Responsive provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Geography is based on learner's home postcode.
4. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

We do not directly record what type of benefits people are receiving when they take up training. We do, however, collect information on why a learner has received fee remission for any learning they undertake. From these data we can provide some information on claimants but this should be used with caution given it does not provide an accurate picture of the full range of benefit entitlements that a person has. Using the fees waived field in the individual learner record we can say for the 2009/10 academic year that 1,700 ESOL enrolments for adult (19+) learners in Coventry local education authority received fee remission as the learner was in receipt of an income-related benefit.

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish the equality impact assessment for his planned change to the funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. [70351]

Mr Hayes: The Department published the "Equality Impact Assessment" for English for Speakers of Other Language on the 18 July 2011. This can be found at:

> http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/e/11-1045-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-equality-impact

Entry Clearances: India

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effect on trade of visa processing times for visitors from India. [72092]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has had no specific discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on the impact of visa processing times on trade with India.

However, close attention has been given to ensuring that visa regime changes have minimal impact on our vital trade relationships, including with India. In 2010, we issued approximately 56,500 business visitor visas and 85% of these were issued within five working days. This year our operation in India is meeting customer processing targets of 90% of non-settlement applications processed within 15 working days.

We have made a number of enhancements to assist with the visa application process in India and a fast-track service is available for an additional fee which expedites the process for visitors who have previously travelled to the UK which has proved very popular. We also operate an expedited service for accredited businesses who send their employees to the UK regularly for work and have translated the business visitor visa application form guidance into six languages, including Hindi. The UK is home to over 700 of the 1,200 Indian companies with bases in Europe. Other changes, such as the entrepreneurs and investors visas, are designed to continue to enhance such close links.

Longer term visitor visas of two, five, and 10 years are available for visitors who have a history of regular travel to the UK and sustained need to do so.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for the Home Department continue to work closely on immigration policy, and particularly the impact on trade and investment.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what debt payments have been received by the Export Credits Guarantee Department from *(a)* low and *(b)* middle-income countries in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) the current financial year to date. [71906]

Mr Davey: Categorisation of low and middle-income countries is based on the World Bank's latest (2011) classification of gross national income (GNI) per capita. The following categories are used: lower income countries (LIC)—$1,005 or less, lower middle income countries (LMIC)—$1,006 to $3,975 and upper middle income countries (UMIC)—$3,976 to $12,275.

Amount of recoveries (principal and interest)

£ million[1]

		2011-12	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Central African Republic	LIC	—	0.02	—	—	—	—
Guinea	LIC	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02
Kenya	LIC	0.73	1.31	1.38	1.99	1.92	1.27
Togo	LIC	—	13.08	—	—	—	—
Angola	LMIC	1.28	—	—	25.17	24.54	91.53
Cameroon	LMIC	—	—	—	—	—	23.37
Congo	LMIC	3.26	40.75	0.31	—	0.29	0.48
Egypt	LMIC	6.55	12.14	12.47	16.21	15.43	13.45
Indonesia	LMIC	21.74	65.48	112.15	120.32	107.69	90.03
Iraq	LMIC	10.72	2.23	2.06	0.08	—	—
Morocco	LMIC	—	—	—	—	2.38	4.62
Nigeria	LMIC	—	—	—	—	—	656.94
Pakistan	LMIC	0.12	0.21	0.46	0.47	0.45	1.35
Philippines	LMIC	—	—	—	—	—	2.58
Senegal	LMIC	—	—	—	—	—	0.89
Vietnam	LMIC	0.44	0.80	0.78	1.04	0.99	0.83
Algeria	UMIC	—	—	—	—	—	119.64
Bosnia and Herzegovina	UMIC	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.05
Ecuador	UMIC	1.35	2.66	4.24	5.79	6.81	8.20
Gabon	UMIC	—	—	—	—	112.11	20.36
Grenada	UMIC	0.19	0.21	0.24	0.04	0.07	—
Jamaica	UMIC	—	—	—	0.20	0.23	0.26
Jordan	UMIC	—	—	—	—	335.31	19.24
Macedonia	UMIC	—	—	—	—	—	1.98
Montenegro	UMIC	—	—	—	0.51	0.02	0.01
Peru	UMIC	—	—	—	—	62.05	2.88
Russian Federation	UMIC	—	—	—	—	—	390.78
Serbia	UMIC	—	8.96	10.16	13.36	11.74	10.06
Seychelles	UMIC	—	—	0.02	—	—	0.08
Total		46.42	147.92	144.35	185.29	682.14	1,460.9

[1] These figures include payments received by the Export Credits Guarantee Department from the Department for International Development (DFID) on behalf of countries under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) scheme: Central African Republic, Guinea, Togo, Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Senegal.

Flexible Working

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made on the need for further regulation on flexible working rights. [72210]

Mr Davey: The coalition Government have committed to extending the right to request flexible working to all employees.

On 16 May, I consulted on how to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees as part of the Modern Workplaces consultation. I published an impact assessment alongside the consultation on the costs and benefits of the extension.

The consultation closed on 8 August. We are currently analysing the responses to the consultation and will publish a Government response, and revised impact assessment, setting out our plans in due course.

Fossil Fuels: Export Credits Guarantees Department

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made on implementing the coalition agreement commitment to end the Export Credits Guarantee Department's support for fossil fuel projects. [72354]

Mr Davey: The Government are still considering how the coalition agreement to ensure that

> "UK Trade and Investment and the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) become champions for British companies that develop and export innovative green technologies around the world, instead of supporting investment in dirty fossil-fuel energy production"

should be implemented but expect to reach a conclusion by the end of the year. When a decision is taken, an announcement will be made. Meanwhile, ECGD is actively reaching out to exporters of renewable energy equipment and services so that they are aware of the products available from ECGD to provide them with credit protection and facilitate the provision of finance.

Franchises

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will review regulations surrounding franchises to enable franchises to continue trading in circumstances where their parent provider goes into liquidation. [71356]

Mr Davey: There are no regulations under company law unique to franchises and there are no plans to introduce them.

Further Education: Buildings

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on college buildings *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the North East and *(d)* nationwide in 2010-11. [70380]

Mr Hayes: In 2010-11, South Tyneside college had three capital projects approved with an estimated value of £4.8 million. This attracted £1.1 million of grant funding from the Department.

During the same period, 20 capital projects were approved in the North East with an estimated value of £15.8 million, attracting £3.5 million of grant funding from the Department. In addition, £38.2 million was paid out in respect of continuing capital grant commitments.

Nationally, in 2010-11, 393 capital projects were approved with an estimated value of £308 million, attracting £76.1 million of grant funding from the Department. In addition, the Department paid out £534 million in grant funding in respect of 206 projects with continuing capital grant commitments.

Higher Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* York college, *(b)* the university of York and *(c)* the university of York St John in each year since 1992. [71435]

Mr Willetts: The capital funding allocated by this Department and its predecessor Departments to York college, the university of York and the university of York St John in each year between 1992 and 2000 is not readily available. However, the capital allocations for each of the institutions named since 2000/01 is as follows:

£

	York college	*University of York*	*University of York St John*
2000/01	38,266	0	0
2001/02	10,910	3,530,750	0
2002/03	42,090	3,778,951	1,853,705
2003/04	47,314	9,960,671	480,369
2004/05	15,927	9,598,750	1,695,801
2005/06	6,148,811	8,901,524	95,667
2006/07	7,631,938	3,257,349	900,000
2007/08	7,631,940	16,182,678	939,152
2008/09	77,650	13,211,996	1,308,627
2009/10	113,645	26,823,315	1,251,150
2010/11	202,474	1,746,914	939,136
2011/12	20,617	2,048,369	114,065

The university figures given cover capital payments for both teaching and research—hence the much higher figures for the university of York. A £2 million interest-free recoverable grant paid in 2006/07 is included in the allocation to the university of York. This is repayable in future years to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE.)

Some of the figures provided differ to those provided in my response to the hon. Member for York Central on 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 501W, as HEFCE have changed their definition of 'capital funding' for analytical purposes. These differences are as follows:

Some small funding streams are now included that are outside the mainstream capital allocations targeting Poor Estates, e-Learning strategy, e-University and the Revolving Green Fund.

Funding for the Joint Research Equipment Initiative and Minority Subjects is now excluded.

The figures provided for York college now include £693,285 for the period 2000/01 onwards paid by HEFCE in relation to higher education delivery.

British Industry

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote buying British products and produce; and if he will make a statement. [66102]

Mr Prisk: This Government fully recognise the importance of UK manufacturing and its key role in rebalancing the economy. Working with business, the Government are taking forward a range of actions to strengthen UK capability in the design, development and manufacture of products and produce. As set out in the Plan for Growth (March 2011) these include actions to improve technology commercialisation, to improve firms access to a skilled workforce, and to improve the image of the sector. In addition, this Department, through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), is helping to promote UK products and produce to customers abroad, and launched its new strategy in May to help boost economic growth by increasing exports and encouraging foreign companies to invest in the UK.

Although the Government want to encourage as many jobs and activity in the UK as possible, we operate in a global marketplace, and a large part of the UK's economic success has resulted from our ability to participate in global trade and investment. Favouring domestic suppliers over imports or distorting procurement decisions would damage the long-term prospects of UK companies to compete in world markets and be costly for the UK economy.

Insolvency

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that after-the-event fee review in insolvency cases does not enable minority creditors or directors to reverse decisions made by the body of creditors as a whole. [67550]

Mr Davey: The Department is currently reviewing responses to the consultation on the regulation of insolvency practitioners. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) have recommended that an independent body be set up to deal with complaints about insolvency practitioners and that this could include complaints about the fees they charge. The intention is to improve the way creditors engage in the insolvency process, and I will be announcing the way forward shortly as part of the Government response to the consultation.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on creditor returns of after-the-event fee review in insolvency cases where complaints are not upheld. [67551]

Mr Davey: The Department is currently reviewing responses to the consultation on the regulation of insolvency practitioners, which sought views on whether an independent complaints body should be set up which would have the power to review the fees they charge. We have not quantified the specific effect on creditor returns where complaints are not upheld. However, the benefits identified within the package of policy options consulted on significantly outweigh the costs of dealing with fee complaints.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of pre-packaged administrations that could be avoided if suppliers were obliged to continue to supply companies in administration. [67552]

Mr Davey: It is difficult to estimate with any certainty the number of pre-packaged administrations that could be avoided if suppliers were obliged to continue to supply companies in administration. The Government are aware of the arguments and data put forward by the Association of Business Recovery Professionals in this regard. More detailed assessment would have to look at the implications for all companies, not just those in insolvency, including any 'knock on' insolvency risk for suppliers.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of liquidations that could be averted if suppliers were obliged to continue to supply companies in administration. [67553]

Mr Davey: It is difficult to estimate with any certainty the number of liquidations that could be averted if suppliers were obliged to continue to supply companies in administration.

The Government are aware of the arguments and data put forward by the Association of Business Recovery Professionals in this regard. More detailed analysis would have to look at the implications for all companies, not just those in insolvency, including any 'knock on' insolvency risk for suppliers.

Lighters: Safety

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of pocket lighters on sale in the UK which do not meet safety requirements; what steps his Department has taken to implement Commission Decision 2006/502/EC; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such steps in restricting the availability of unsafe pocket lighters. [72812]

Mr Davey: The market surveillance of lighters is the responsibility of local authority trading standards services in Great Britain and district councils in Northern Ireland. BIS officials do not formally assess the effectiveness of this market surveillance, however, we are aware that a number of authorities have been taking action in response to concerns from the industry.

This Department has not made any recent estimate on the number of pocket lighters on the UK market that do not meet minimum safety standards. However, a press release by the European Federation of Lighter Manufacturers on 22 September estimated that of the 100 million lighters on the UK market up to 79% may be non-compliant. This does not necessarily mean that they are unsafe.

Each May since 2006 we have issued a direction to the local authorities to implement Commission Decision 2006/502/EC to ensure that only lighters that are child resistant are placed on the market. I will continue to issue directions until the work on the revised European standard on child resistant lighters has reached the point where it can support consistent enforcement across the EU.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of pocket lighters on sale that do not meet minimum safety standards; whether his Department has assessed the fire risks presented by such lighters; and what steps his Department has taken to ensure that trading standards officers remove such products from the market. [72731]

Mr Davey: The market surveillance of lighters is the responsibility of Local Authority Trading Standards Services in Great Britain and District Councils in Northern Ireland. BIS officials do not formally assess the effectiveness of this market surveillance, however, we are aware that a number of authorities have been taking action in response to concerns from the industry.

This Department has not made an estimate on the number of pocket lighters on the UK market that do not meet minimum safety standards. However, a press release by the European Federation of Lighter Manufacturers on 22 September estimates that of the 100 million lighters on the UK market up to 79% may be non-compliant.

The collection of fire statistics is a responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government. UK fire statistics show that seven people died in 2009/10 in fires caused by cigarette lighters. However, the fire statistics do not identify whether the lighters were unsafe.

Each May since 2006 we have issued a Direction to the local authorities to implement Commission Decision 2006/502/EC to ensure that only lighters that are child resistant are placed on the market. I will continue to issue directions until the work on the revised European standard on child resistant lighters has reached the point where it can support consistent enforcement across the EU.

Mass Media

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the total cost to the public purse was of his Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month between June 2001 and May 2002; [68363]

(2) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers his Department employed between June 2001 and May 2002; and what the cost to the public purse was in (i) cash and (ii) real terms of such appointments. [68328]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 5 June 2009 by the machinery of government (MOG) change merging the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Neither of these two predecessor Departments existed in 2001-02.

Due to the age of the information requested and the machinery of Government changes since that period, an answer could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Medical Research Council

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether the Medical Research Council accepts funding from non-public sources; how much such funding has been received in the last five years for which figures are available; from what sources; and for what purposes; [71403]

(2) how much was given to the Medical Research Council from the public purse in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [71406]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) receives its core funding allocation from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in line with the Government spending review cycle. The MRC also receives additional funding from other stakeholders to take forward collaborative projects and joint initiatives which increase the impact of the MRC's work and the public funding it receives. This includes funding from other Government Departments, such as the Department of Health and the Department for International Development and the other UK health departments, Government agencies such as the Food Standards Agency, the NHS and other UK research councils, and other stakeholders, including medical research charities. The MRC also receives funding from other grant awarding bodies in the UK and overseas which supports research projects MRC research units and institutes. In addition, the MRC receives royalty income derived from the successful exploitation of the research it funds.

A summary of MRC funding, including a breakdown of public and non-public funding is shown in the following table. Further information can be found in the MRC's annual report and accounts, available from

www.mrc.ac.uk

£ million

	2009/10	*2008/09*	*2007/08*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*
Total resource and capital expenditure per finance tables in annual account	868.8	809.7	687.1	622.8	567.6
Funded by:					
Core funding from BIS[1]	722.5	680.8	550.0	548.5	500.4
External income (see breakdown below)	95.0	80.1	76.7	74.3	67.2
Royalty income and commercial fund interest	51.3	48.8	60.4	—	—
Total	868.8	809.7	687.1	622.8	567.6

[1] Includes non cash.

£ million

	2009/10	*2008/09*	*2007/08*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*
External income	95.0	80.1	76.7	74.3	67.2

	2009/10	*2008/09*	*2007/08*	*2006/07*	*£ million* *2005/06*
Public	41.1	39.9	43.7	46.3	42.4
Other research councils	9.7	5.9	5.5	3.5	3.4
European Commission	7.2	7.4	6.7	4.9	3.2
Human Frontiers Science programme (an International funding organisation)	—	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Health authorities and NHS Trusts	4.4	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.5
Universities	2.0	8.5	5.6	3.6	2.8
Contributions from other Government Departments	17.8	16.2	23.6	32.5	31.2
Non public	53.9	40.2	33.0	28.0	24.8
Collaboration with Industry	13.2	11.9	11.3	3.4	1.1
Charities	14.9	14.9	15.7	15.5	14.8
Contributions and grants from other bodies	8.9	—	—	3.2	3.8
Sales and other income	16.9	13.0	5.9	5.7	5.1
Interest	—	0.4	0.1	0.2	—

Metals; Theft

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to establish a list of cash transactions at scrap metal yards. [71549]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognise the significance of metal theft to the United Kingdom and that some scrap metal yards are a disposal route for stolen metal. The Home Office is in discussion with other Government Departments to identify whether any legislative changes should be made to tackle the theft of metal.

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration his Department has given to establishing a register of cash transactions at scrap metal yards. [71759]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognise the significance of metal theft to the United Kingdom and that some scrap metal yards are a disposal route for stolen metal. The Home Office is in discussion with other Government Departments to identify whether any legislative changes should be made to tackle the theft of metal.

National Apprenticeship Service

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who the chief accounting officer for the National Apprenticeship Service is; and what plans he has for the future of this role. [69676]

Mr Hayes: The chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service is the accounting officer for the National Apprenticeship Service. Under his leadership, the National Apprenticeship Service has end to end responsibility for apprenticeships including the delivery of the programme and accountability for ensuring high quality standards and value for money for the public investment in apprenticeships.

Nuclear Reactors: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research and development the UK research councils are funding on *(a)* nuclear engineering design and *(b)* the building of the next generation of nuclear reactors. [72412]

Mr Willetts: The research councils co-ordinate funding for energy research through the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Energy Programme which brings together all facets of energy research, knowledge transfer, engagement, and training across the councils, in a programme which includes nuclear fission. The RCUK Energy Programme currently (as of July 2011) has a nuclear portfolio of £48 million of projects.

Projects totalling £23 million are directly relevant to the next generation of nuclear reactors but many other projects will provide underpinning research that will also be useful in this area.

Overseas Students

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the *(a)* number and *(b)* country of origin of foreign nationals who have attended an (i) independent college, (ii) maintained college and (iii) university in each of the last five academic years. [72656]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of European Union (EU) and non-EU domiciled enrolments at English higher education institutions are shown for the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 in Table 1 which will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Information on the nationality of enrolments in higher education is not comprehensive and country of domicile is provided as a more robust alternative. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record which covers students studying in the United Kingdom (UK). Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Table 2 as follows shows the number of learners participating in English further education colleges with a country of domicile of EU, non-EU, UK and non-UK in 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest years for which final data are available. Information on the nationality of learners in further education is not available. However, colleges do capture country of domicile information for funding purposes.

Further education colleges include general further education colleges, sixth-form colleges, special colleges (agricultural and horticultural colleges and art and design colleges) and specialist colleges. Information for independent and maintained colleges is not available.

Table 2: Further education learner participation in colleges by country of domicile, 2005/06 to 2009/10

Country of domicile	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*Number* *2009/10*
EU	2,978,740	2,417,570	2,487,540	2,660,620	2,552,840
Non-EU	8,170	6,930	6,900	7,100	5,990
UK	2,952,250	2,391,210	2,464,700	2,640,490	2,536,730
Non-UK	34,660	33,300	29,740	27,230	22,100
Not known	40,450	133,140	50,790	117,460	106,970
Total	3,027,360	2,557,650	2,545,230	2,785,170	2,665,790

Notes:

1. These data include learning in the Learner Responsive, Apprenticeship, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams delivered in general further education colleges including tertiary, sixth-form colleges, special colleges (agricultural and horticultural colleges and art and design colleges), specialist colleges and external institutions.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. UK figures include learners with a country of domicile of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
4. EU countries are as defined at the start of the 2009/10 academic year.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Government-funded learning as recorded on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) for further education is restricted to home learners. Therefore funded learners who are non-EEA (European Economic Area) nationals must have been resident in the UK for the three years preceding their course start date and the main purpose for residence must not have been to receive full-time education during any part of that three-year period. There are a limited number of exceptions to this, for example—refugees, learners with indefinite leave to remain status, or learners studying under reciprocal exchange agreements.

Information on further education and skills participation and achievement is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Overseas Trade: Bangladesh

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage the development of business and trade links between Bangladesh and *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the East Midlands. [72807]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) supports trade and business links between the whole of the UK and Bangladesh. Support is accessible to companies from any city or region in the UK, including Leicester and the East Midlands, through UKTI's network of international trade advisers.

UKTI has four trade officers based at the British high commission in Dhaka, who provide advice and support to UK companies who are either interested or active in the country and to Bangladeshi companies wishing to import from or invest in the UK. UKTI works with Bangladesh business support groups including the Bangladesh Brand Forum, Wales Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, Gateway Asia and the Bangladesh high commission in London by advising and supporting relevant business related activity.

Overseas Trade: Pakistan

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage the development of business and trade links between Pakistan and *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the East Midlands. [72806]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) supports trade and business links between the whole of the UK and Pakistan. Support is accessible to companies from any city or region in the UK, including Leicester and the East Midlands, including through UKTI's international trade advisers. The Government are focused on the development of business links between the UK and Pakistan through the trade and business relations strand of the Prime Minister-led Enhanced Strategic Dialogue.

UKTI has six trade officers in three locations (Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore), who provide advice and support to UK companies who are either interested or active in the country. It works closely with the Pakistan high commission in the UK, including with the Consul in Manchester, and organised a major Doing Business in Pakistan event on 10 February 2011 in London, with 80 business representatives from across the UK.

Police: Compensation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to his written statement of 11 August 2011, *Official Report,* columns 119-21WS, how many claims for financial compensation have been made to each police authority under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886; what the monetary value is of payments made to date; what the monetary value is of outstanding claims; what the monetary value is of claims made to date under the High Street Support Scheme; how much has been paid out to date under the scheme; how many claims remain outstanding; and when he expects all outstanding claims to be paid. [71668]

Nick Herbert: I have been asked to reply.

Police authorities are receiving claims under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 from individuals affected by the riots and direct from insurers for the cost of damage to property and their contents during the riots. The full extent of the costs will not be known until after the 42 day deadline for claims.

35 local authorities have registered an intention to claim assistance under the High Street Support Scheme but no actual claims have been received yet and therefore no funding paid out. The deadline for receipt of claims is 7 November. We will pay valid claims within 15 days of receipt.

Postal Services

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the role of access customers in providing support to Royal Mail to deliver its universal service obligation. [72560]

Mr Davey: Government commissioned the independent Hooper report of 2008 and update of 2010 to assess the effects of liberalisation on the postal services market. Among its findings, the Hooper report said access prices should reflect costs, but users should not pay for inefficiencies and competitors should not be subsidised.

The Postal Services Act 2011 provides Ofcom, as the new regulator, with a primary duty in relation to post to secure the provision of a universal postal service throughout the UK. Among other things, the Act provides Ofcom with the power to require other postal operators (including access users) to contribute towards the cost of the universal service.

This option would only be considered if it was ever determined that it was unfair for the universal service provider to bear the whole of the financial burden for providing a universal service throughout the UK. More information about the Postal Services Act 2011 can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/business-sectors/postal-services

Postal Services: Competition

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effects of competition in the mail services sector. [72561]

Mr Davey: Government commissioned the independent Hooper report of 2008 and update of 2010 to assess the effects of liberalisation on the postal services market. Among its findings, the Hooper report said that postal competition remains important in keeping pressure on Royal Mail to improve its performance, offering choice to customers and driving innovation across the whole market.

The Postal Services Act 2011 (PSA2011), which was enacted in June, provides for the implementation of Hooper's package of recommendations—enabling private sector investment in Royal Mail, fixing the regulatory regime and tackling Royal Mail's pension deficit. More information on Hooper's findings and the Postal Services Act 2011 can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/business-sectors/postal-services

Public Sector

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Minister for the Cabinet Office on the effect of the public sector on *(a)* the creation of local jobs and *(b)* economic recovery; and if he will make a statement. [72109]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has met the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), from time to time to discuss issues of mutual concern to their Departments.

Research Councils

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the geographic spread is of the membership of research council committees in each region. [72413]

Mr Willetts: The regional spread of council members for each research council is as follows:

	AHRC	*BBSRC*	*EPSRC*	*ESRC*	*MRC*	*NERC*	*STFC*
South-west	1	1	2	3	—	4	1
South-east	3	4	3	1	—	—	5
London	6	1	5	6	6	4	1
East	—	4	2	—	1	1	1
West midlands	1	1	—	2	—	—	2
East midlands	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
North-west	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Yorkshire	1	—	1	—	1	2	—
North-east	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scotland	2	1	1	2	3	2	—
Wales	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Northern Ireland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
International	—	—	2	—	2	—	—

The location is determined by institution where the council member is employed or where they live, which ever is more appropriate.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58662]

Mr Davey: BIS have only one contract with Serco. The details are as follows:

There is a joint contract for Technical Assessments of Queen's Awards applications with SERCO, BETA and ERM. SERCO is the lead partner to this contract and payments are made directly to them. The contract is for three years and valued at £600,000 (£200,000 per annum) however the final value will be determined by the number of applications received for each award category.

Students: Immigration

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department regarding the potential effect of reforms to the student immigration system on the higher education sector; [72050]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department regarding the potential effect of reforms to the student immigration system on economic growth. [72051]

Mr Willetts: Ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have met regularly with Ministers from the Home Office since the formation of the coalition Government to discuss a number of issues relating to the changes to and implementation of the student immigration system. We have discussed the potential impact of the reforms on the sector reflecting consultation with the sector as well as the details of implementation of the new regulations.

Union Modernisation Fund

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on Union Modernisation Fund, how much has been given to the Campaign Company from the Union Modernisation Fund (UMF) Project, by UMF project. [72240]

Mr Davey: A list of the Union Modernisation Fund (UMF) projects who have worked with the Campaign Company and the amounts paid to the company are as follows. These amounts include matched funding as well as UMF grants.

Union Modernisation Fund round one projects

Union	*Project title*	*Amount paid (£)*
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU)	Membership Diversity and Membership and Communication Systems	68,816.56
Community and District Nursing Association (CDNA)	Developing the Virtual Union empowering members in a small union	10,379.07
GMB	Race and Diversity	66,510.60

Union Modernisation Fund round two projects

Union	*Project title*	*Amount paid (£)*
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU)	Modernising our Organisation	10,500.00
GMB	Developing Modern Management Methods in the GMB	76,210.05
Musicians' Union (MU)	Managing Change: Transforming our Traditional Structures	47,452.13

Union Modernisation Fund round three projects[1]

Union	*Project title*	*Amount paid (£)*
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU)	Reaching Out	32,690.20
GMB	Engaging Communities and Building Social Capital	13,488.00
Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW)	Engaging Vulnerable Workers	56,689.10

[1] These projects are not yet complete.

Job Vacancies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the findings of the British Chambers of Commerce Workforce Survey, Micro Businesses, on the ability of employers to fill vacancies. [72107]

Mr Davey: This Department is leading the cross-Government employment law review and is looking at all evidence about the operation of underpinning legislative framework and burdens on business, including from business representative groups, trades unions and other stakeholders. A key objective of the review is making it easier for a business to take on staff. The review will also consider ideas that emerge from the Red Tape Challenge aimed at facilitating the recruitment of employees by businesses.

York College: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what budget his Department has provided for York college in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 2004. [71434]

Mr Hayes: The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) (and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) prior to April 2010) has responsibility for funding post-19 further education (FE) and skills training. Funding allocations to York college by the LSC and the SFA for post-19 FE and skills are provided in the following table.

£

	Academic year	*19+ cash allocation*[1]	*Real terms 2011-12*[2]
Skills Funding Agency	2011/12	3,440,461	3,440,461
	2010/11	3,456,250	3,556,481
Transition from LSC to Agency and YPLA			
Learning and Skills Council	2009/10	2,417,724	2,561,612
	2008/09	2,677,257	2,882,777
	2007/08	3,153,330	3,489,345

			£
	Academic year	*19+ cash allocation*[1]	*Real terms 2011-12*[2]
	2006/07	3,341,370	3,803,354
	2005/06	2,892,360	3,402,776
	2004/05	3,953,000	4,734,931

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[1] *Source:* Skills Funding Agency allocation data for 19+ participation (excluding additional learning support) and discretionary learner support.

[2] These figures have been calculated using HM Treasury deflators, last updated 28 June 2011.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 4.4.1 of the NHS Information Centre publication, Statistics on Alcohol: England 2011, which disease, injury or condition accounts for the largest proportion of the increase in alcohol-related admissions since 2002-03. [71738]

Anne Milton: Hypertensive diseases accounts for the largest proportion of increase in alcohol-related admissions since 2002-03. This is shown in the following table.

Alcohol-related[1] NHS[2] hospital admissions[3], 2002-03 to 2009-10[4,5], England

ICD-10 Code[6]		*2002-03*	*2009-10*	*Increase from 2002-03 to 2009-10*	*% of total increase*
Total		510,800	1,057,000	546,200	—
Total—wholly attributable[7]		131,100	265,200	134,100	25
F10	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	83,400	177,400	94,000	17
F10.0	Acute intoxication	22,400	55,200	32,800	6
F10.1	Harmful use	18,300	41,100	22,800	4
F10.2	Dependence syndrome	29,500	54,700	25,200	5
F10.3	Withdrawal state	9,200	21,900	12,700	2
F10.4	Withdrawal state with delirium	1,200	1,200	0	0
F10.5	Psychotic disorder	600	500	-100	0
F10.6	Amnesic syndrome	600	1,100	500	0
F10.7	Residual and late-onset psychotic disorder	500	600	100	0
F10.8	Other mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	100	100	0	0
F10.9	Unspecified mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	1,100	1,000	-100	0
K70	Alcoholic liver disease	25,700	43,100	17,400	3
K70.0	Alcoholic fatty liver	400	1,000	600	0
K70.1	Alcoholic hepatitis	1,600	2,700	1,100	0
K70.2	Alcoholic fibrosis and sclerosis of liver	200	200	0	0
K70.3	Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	7,200	16,400	9,200	2
K70.4	Alcoholic hepatic failure	1,100	2,600	1,500	0
K70.9	Alcoholic liver disease, unspecified	15,300	20,200	4,900	1
T51[8]	Toxic effect of alcohol	16,000	33,600	17,600	3
T51.0	Toxic effect of ethanol	12,300	30,300	18,000	3
T51.1	Toxic effect of methanol	100	0	-100	0
T51.9	Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified	3,600	3,300	-300	0
Other wholly—attributable conditions		6,000	11,200	5,200	1
E24.4	Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome	0	0	0	0
G31.2	Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	400	700	300	0
G62.1	Alcoholic polyneuropathy	200	300	100	0
G72.1	Alcoholic myopathy	100	100	0	0
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	800	1,100	300	0
K29.2	Alcoholic gastritis	1,200	1,900	700	0
K86.0	Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced)	3,100	7,000	3,900	1
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	200	200	0	0

Alcohol-related[1] NHS[2] hospital admissions[3], 2002-03 to 2009-10[4,5], England

ICD-10 Code[6]		*2002-03*	*2009-10*	*Increase from 2002-03 to 2009-10*	*% of total increase*
Total—partly attributable[9]		379,700	791,700	412,000	75
Accidents and injuries		20,000	27,000	7,000	1
W78-W79	Inhalation of gastric contents/ Inhalation and ingestion of food causing obstruction of the respiratory tract	200	700	500	0
W00-W19	Fall injuries	17,400	23,800	6,400	1
W24-W31	Work/machine injuries	1,400	1,500	100	0
W32-W34	Firearm injuries	200	100	-100	0
W65-W74	Drowning	0	0	0	0
X00-X09	Fire injuries	600	700	100	0
X31	Accidental excessive cold	100	200	100	0
Violence		21,700	28,100	6,400	1
X60-X84, Y10-Y33	Intentional self-harm/Event of undetermined intent	14,200	19,600	5,400	1
X85-Y09	Assault	7,500	8,500	1,000	0
Transport accidents		5,700	5,400	-300	0
V02-V04 (.1, .9), V06.1, V09.2, V09.3	Pedestrian traffic accidents	1,100	1,100	0	0
For codes see footnote 10	Road traffic accidents—non-pedestrian	4,500	4,200	-300	0
V90-V94	Water transport accidents	100	100	0	0
V95-V97	Air/space transport accidents			0	0
Spontaneous abortion		8,700	9,300	600	0
O03	Spontaneous abortion	8,700	9,300	600	0
Digestive		14,000	22,200	8,200	2
K22.6	Gastro-oesophageal laceration-haemorrhage syndrome	1,100	1,200	100	0
K73, K74	Unspecified liver disease	5,800	11,800	6,000	1
K85, K86.1	Acute and chronic pancreatitis	3,300	3,900	600	0
I85	Oesophageal varices	3,700	5,400	1,700	0
Cancer		29,400	36,900	7,500	1
C00-C14	Malignant neoplasm of lip, oral cavity and pharynx	5,200	9,700	4,500	1
C15	Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus	7,800	7,400	-400	0
C32	Malignant neoplasm of larynx	1,200	1,500	300	0
C18	Malignant neoplasm of colon	2,800	2,200	-600	0
C20	Malignant neoplasm of rectum	2,800	2,100	-700	0
C22	Malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	500	700	200	0
C50	Malignant neoplasm of breast	9,100	13,300	4,200	1
Hypertensive diseases		136,000	383,900	247,900	45
I10-I15	Hypertensive diseases	136,000	383,900	247,900	45
Cardiac arrhythmias		87,000	182,300	95,300	17
I47-I48	Cardiac arrhythmias	87,000	182,300	95,300	17
Other partly-attributable conditions		57,200	96,600	39,400	7
G40-G41	Epilepsy and Status epilepticus	48,800	86,500	37,700	7
I60-I62, I69.0-I69.2	Haemorrhagic stroke	2,900	2,400	-500	0
I63-I66, I69.3, I69.4	Ischaemic stroke	1,600	1,200	-400	0

Alcohol-related[1] NHS[2] hospital admissions[3], 2002-03 to 2009-10[4,5], England

ICD-10 Code[6]		*2002-03*	*2009-10*	*Increase from 2002-03 to 2009-10*	*% of total increase*
L40 excluding cirrhosis L40.5	Psoriasis	4,000	6,500	2,500	0

[1] The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). This methodology includes a wide range of diseases, injuries and conditions in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Finished admission episodes are identified where an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Admission Statistics record. For each of these episodes, an attributable fraction is applied, based on the diagnostic codes, age group and gender of the patient. Where there is more than one alcohol-related condition among the diagnostic codes, the condition with the largest attributable fraction is used. Where there are two or more codes with the maximum attributable fraction, the code from the earliest diagnostic position is used. This method is employed to avoid double counting of the admission episodes related to alcohol and therefore each episode contributes to one cell in the table. The total number of alcohol-related admissions is arrived at by summing up the number of episodes counted against each alcohol-related condition.

[2] The data include activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

[3] A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[4] Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

[5] Data includes only ordinary, day cases and maternity admissions, where the age and sex of the patient was known and where the region of residence was one of the English regions or no fixed abode or unknown.

[6] International Classification of Diseases.

[7] Wholly attributable conditions are alcohol-specific by definition and so have an attributable fraction of one.

[8] The totals shown for T51—Toxic effect of alcohol, do not include the full breakdown for ICD-10 code T51, only T51.0, T51.1 and T51.9 as these cover types of alcohol most commonly found in alcoholic drinks.

[9] Partially attributable conditions are those where some but not all cases are a result of alcohol consumption and so have an attributable fraction of less than one

[10] ICD-10 codes for road traffic accidents: V12-V14 (.3 -.9), V19.4-V19.6, V19.9, V20-V28 (.3 -.9), V29-V79 (.4 -.9), V80.3-V80.5, V81.1, V82.1, V82.9, V83.0-V86 (.0 -.3), V87.0-V87.9, V89.2, V89.3, V89.9.

Note:

Admission numbers for 2003-03 to 2006-07 have been updated to include records relating to disease codes K73 (chronic hepatitis) and L40 (psoriasis), that were excluded unintentionally from the previous figures. As a result the latest figures are slightly higher than those published in the 2009 report. The minimum effect at a national level is to increase the total number of admissions by 543 admissions (0.07%) in 2005-06, while the maximum effect is an increase of 2,946 (0.37%) in 2006-07.

Sources:

Figures provided by The Department of Health based on:

1. Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre—Data for total number of admissions for each ICD-10 code.
2. North West Public Health Observatory—Attributable fractions for alcohol-related ICD-10 codes.

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 916W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse, what the primary diagnoses were for the 74 per cent. of admissions in which the primary diagnosis was not attributable to alcohol. [71739]

Anne Milton: The data for the primary diagnoses for the 74% of admission in which primary diagnosis was not attributable to alcohol are shown in the following table.

Admissions with an alcohol-related diagnosis, where the primary diagnosis was not alcohol-related

ICD-10 Chapter	*ICD-10 Codes*	*Title*	*Estimated number of alcohol-related admissions*
I	A00-B99	Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	7,150
II	C00-D48	Neoplasms	55,729
III	D50-D89	Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	13,783
IV	E00-E90	Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	14,222
V	F00-F99	Mental and behavioural disorders	8,383
VI	G00-G99	Diseases of the nervous system	15,456
VII	H00-H59	Diseases of the eye and adnexa	33,797
VIII	H60-H95	Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	1,894
IX	I00-I99	Diseases of the circulatory system	39,819
X	J00-J99	Diseases of the respiratory system	51,900
XI	K00-K93	Diseases of the digestive system	79,567
XII	L00-L99	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	14,928
XIII	M00-M99	Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	60,504
XIV	N00-N99	Diseases of the genitourinary system	43,720
XV	O00-O99	Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	4,245
XVI	P00-P96	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	1
XVII	Q00-Q99	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	1,291
XVIII	R00-R99	Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	135,891
XIX	S00-T98	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	176,289
XX	V01-Y98	External causes of morbidity and mortality	
XXI	Z00-Z99	Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	20,794
XXII	U00-U99	Codes for special purposes	—
		Total	779,363

Anti-slavery Day

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to mark Anti-slavery day 2011. [72517]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are planning to mark Anti-slavery day with a range of events including the launch of a training and referral process for the airline industry with a major United Kingdom airline.

The Government are fully committed to combating human trafficking by tackling organised crime groups and protecting the victims of this modern day slavery.

The Government published their strategy on human trafficking on 19 July. The strategy reiterates the UK's intention to take a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking—both by focusing on tackling traffickers and maintaining effective care for victims.

The strategy also sets out our commitment to raising awareness of trafficking among the public and the private sector. The Government recognise the importance of Anti-Slavery day as an opportunity to improve understanding and increase vigilance in our communities.

Blood: Donors

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons sexually active gay and bisexual men are not permitted to donate blood irrespective of their sexual history; and if he will make a statement. [72659]

Anne Milton: The independent scientific Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs, following advice from an expert Working Group comprised of relevant clinical experts and stakeholders from campaigning and equalities (the National Aids Trust, Gay Men Fighting AIDS, Stonewall and the Terence Higgins Trust) and patient (UK Thalassaemia Society and Sickle Cell Society) groups, has recommended that the current lifetime deferral from blood donation for men who have had sex with men should be changed to a twelve-month deferral. This change has been accepted in England, Wales and Scotland and will be implemented from 7 November 2011.

The 12-month deferral period was recommended as the evidence showed that in the UK men who have had sex with men as a group continue to be at a statistically higher risk of contracting blood-borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis B. Due to the nature of hepatitis B virus infection, and of the screening tests used, it is necessary to allow 12 months from any higher risk behaviour as this is long enough for the donor to have undergone and recovered from an infection.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the restriction on blood donation by men who have had sex with men in the previous 12 months with anti-discrimination legislation; and if he will make a statement. [72660]

Anne Milton: The Equality Act 2010 was considered as part of the review by the independent scientific Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) of donor deferral periods. The Act states that blood services do not contravene anti-discrimination legislation by excluding people from donating blood as long as this exclusion or deferral is based on a reasonable and reliable assessment of risk to the public or the individual.

SaBTO has recently recommended, on the basis of an assessment of risk based on the most up to date scientific evidence, that for men who have had sex with men a permanent deferral is not required and that a fixed period deferral of 12 months from latest relevant sexual contact is sufficient to maintain the safety of the blood supply. The change will be implemented by the blood services in England, Wales and Scotland on 7 November 2011.

Botulinum Toxin

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has any plans to introduce a minimum age limit for administration of botulinum toxin; [72522]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the unauthorised administration of botulinum toxin. [72523]

Mr Simon Burns: Seven botulinum toxin-containing products are authorised in the United Kingdom: Botox, Dysport, Neurobloc, Xeomin, Azzulure, Bocouture and Vistabel.

Dysport and Botox are authorised for the treatment of children aged two years and above with cerebral palsy to control foot deformity caused by persistent muscle spasm in the leg. These products should be administered in hospital or specialist centres.

Neurobloc, Xeomin, Azzalure, Bocouture and Vistabel are not authorised for the treatment of children. The Summaries of Product Characteristics and Patient Information Leaflet for these products state that the safety and efficacy in children (under 18 years) have not been demonstrated.

Any referral received by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) which involves a suspected breach of regulatory requirements will be passed to the MHRA's Enforcement Group to take further action. Over the past 12 months, the MHRA's Enforcement Group has received 26 referrals concerning botulinum toxin which has either been administered or advertised for administration in circumstances where it was suspected that the regulatory requirements were not/would not have been complied with.

Organisations that offer the therapeutic use of botox in the national health service are properly regulated. A check of the Department's correspondence and parliamentary questions database has not identified any recent representations specifically about unauthorised use, though it has received other inquiries (for example about whether botox is licensed for specific indications) and representations about cosmetic provision by unqualified practitioners.

Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the MHRA and Commission for Human Medicines through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the Yellow Card Scheme. Up to the 15 September 2011, the MHRA has received a total of 317 UK spontaneous suspected ADR reports associated with clostridium botulinum toxin. It is important to note that the extent of off-label use cannot be calculated using ADR data from the Yellow Card Scheme; the indication for use of the suspect drug on an ADR report is not always provided and also it is recognised that there is under-reporting of suspected ADRs through spontaneous reporting schemes such as the Yellow Card Scheme.

The Department urges anyone considering botox treatment for cosmetic purposes to check

www.treatmentsyoucantrust.co.uk

for a list of practitioners with appropriate qualifications.

Breast Feeding

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of breastfeeding on *(a)* emotional comfort, *(b)* maternal infant bonding and *(c)* long-term neurological development. [72040]

Anne Milton: The Department has not made any formal assessment of the effects of breastfeeding on emotional comfort, maternal infant bonding and the long term neurological development.

In 2009 the Department commissioned the University of Oxford to undertake a study to examine the effects of breastfeeding on behavioural development in children aged five years. Though the findings, published in May 2011, suggest that children who were breastfed for at least four months were less likely to have behavioural problems at age five, the authors concluded that this observation might have not been the direct result of breastfeeding.

The Department recognises the importance of breastfeeding and the health benefits it provides to both the mothers and infants. In particular, breastfeeding can protect infants from infections and can reduce the risk of obesity in later childhood.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities have indicated they will increase the level of fees they pay to care homes in the 2011-12 financial year. [72360]

Paul Burstow: The detail of contracting arrangements between local authorities and independent sector care homes, including the level of fees, is a matter for local decision between local authorities and providers. Information about the level of fees is not collected centrally. However, according to the independent analysts Laing and Buisson, the majority of local authorities in England have not increased their fees in 2011-12.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care home residents were funded by the relevant local authority in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [72361]

Paul Burstow: Data on the number of adults (aged 18 and over) in receipt of local authority funded registered residential and nursing care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. However, all local authority supported residents can be charged for their care, following a financial assessment by the local authority to decide what each resident can afford to pay towards the cost of their care.

We are informed by the Information Centre that there were 1,000 clients aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funding as at 31 March 2010 in Coventry.

There were also 226,000 clients aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funding as at 31 March 2010 in England.

Provisional data for the year ending 31 March 2011 are planned to be published in November 2011.

Care UK: Correspondence

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence he has received from Care UK management since October 2010. [72715]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's correspondence database contains no correspondence from Care UK addressed to the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley).

Cataracts: Waiting Lists

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for cataract treatment in each region. [72818]

Mr Simon Burns: The provisional 2010-11 mean and median waiting times for cataract treatment in each strategic health authority (SHA) are provided in the following table.

Mean and median waiting time[1] and count of finished admission episodes (FAEs)[2] for main procedures[3] of cataract treatment[3] within each SHA of commissioner[4]: 2010-11 (provisional data)

	Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector		
SHA of commissioner	*Total episodes in each SHA of commissioner*	*Mean waiting time (days)*	*Median waiting time (days)*
Total	342,733	64	57
North East Strategic Health Authority	21,263	58	56
North West Strategic Health Authority	46,519	68	63
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	35,123	56	48
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	29,879	59	56
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	33,858	69	63
East of England Strategic Health Authority	35,621	60	52
London Strategic Health Authority	44,420	58	50
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	29,118	71	64
South Central Strategic Health Authority	22,886	71	65

Mean and median waiting time[1] and count of finished admission episodes (FAEs)[2] for main procedures[3] of cataract treatment[3] within each SHA of commissioner[4]; 2010-11 (provisional data)

	Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector		
SHA of commissioner	*Total episodes in each SHA of commissioner*	*Mean waiting time (days)*	*Median waiting time (days)*
South West Strategic Health Authority	38,896	73	67
Foreign (including Other British Isles, Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	882	n/a	n/a
Unknown	4,268	34	21

[1] Time waited (days) statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as published Referral to Treatment (RTT) time waited statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients between decision to admit and admission to hospital within a given period. Published RTT waiting statistics measure the time waited between referral and start of treatment. Unlike HES, RTT waiting time data is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

[2] The mean and median waiting time and a count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) with a main procedure for cataract treatments has been provided within each SHA of commissioner; for the latest year 2010-11 (which is currently provisional data).

[3] Main procedure—contains four cataract treatments. The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (eg time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

The following combination of OPCS-4 codes were specified to identify cataract treatment:

C71—Extracapsular extraction of lens
C72—Intracapsular extraction of lens
C73—Incision of capsule of lens
C74—Other extraction of lens
C75—Prosthesis of lens

[4] SHA of commissioner—identifies the SHA in which the commissioner is located.

Note:

These data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period, ie November from the (month 9) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected. Final in-patient data for 2010-11 will be published by The NHS Information Centre on 2 November 2011.

College of Social Work

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the *(a)* creation of a College of Social Work, *(b)* Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement reached between the Interim Board and Unison and *(c)* Memorandum of Understanding reached between the Interim Board and BASW at the meeting of the Social Care Institute for Excellence Board on 15 September; and if he will make a statement. [72152]

Paul Burstow: The Government asked the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to support the development of the College of Social Work. To do this, SCIE convened a College Development Group bringing together relevant parties from the sector. This group oversaw the open recruitment of interim Chairs of the college and an interim board which began work in October 2010.

As part of its business planning and development the interim board has undertaken work to develop a viable and sustainable business model. Defining appropriate relationships with other organisations operating in the social work sector is of course an important part of this.

The college remains in discussion with UNISON over future relationships and joint working. It has recently signalled to the British Association of Social Workers that it wishes to place further discussions around potential merger on hold until early 2012. It is our understanding that the college is not in a position to enter into any contract until it is legally established as a separate organisation at that point.

SCIE is an independent charity and Government are not represented on its Board.

Community Resuscitation

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the cost-effectiveness of community resuscitation provision. [72436]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no such assessment. However, in 2007 an evaluation of the role of community defibrillation officers, as part of the National Defibrillation Programme, found that they had ensured that more defibrillators were deployed in the community, more individuals had been trained and retrained in their use and that where co-ordinated systems of response were in place, this increased the potential for early defibrillation. As a result, lives had been saved.

Day Centres

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in funding to local authorities on the number of day centres operational in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough. [72343]

Paul Burstow: The responsibility for addressing and commissioning social care needs of local communities rests with local authorities.

The Government recognise the importance of social care services and have taken steps to ensure that local authorities have sufficient funds to provide them. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging fiscal climate, we have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. With an ambitious programme of efficiency, there will be enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of day centres which were operational in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough (i) on the most recent date for which figures are available and (ii) in each of the last five years. [72344]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of day centres is not collected centrally.

Dental Services

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental *(a)* extractions and *(b)* restorations were performed by NHS dentists in each of the last four years by primary care trusts. [72282]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the estimated total number of national health service clinical dental treatment items provided to adults in 2009-10 and 2010-11 is available in Table 5b of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2010/11" report.

Clinical dental treatment items include extractions, permanent fillings and sealant restorations, veneer(s) applied, inlay(s) and crown(s) provided. The publication does not contain a definition for 'restorations'.

Table 5e contains the same information for NHS clinical dental treatment items provided to children.

This report, published on 18 August 2011 has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats1011

Comparable information for earlier years is not available.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72691]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently contracted with Flight Centre UK Ltd, trading as FCm Travel Solutions, for all its travel requirements, including airline tickets. Connecting for Health are using Expotel (with effect from 19 September 2011).

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72705]

Mr Simon Burns: Suppliers are required to provide services in accordance with the Department's policy. The Department's travel policy states that staff are required to consider at the outset whether their travel is necessary to deliver the business outcome required. First-class air travel is not allowed within the Department's policy. If travel by air is necessary, travellers should travel economy class, unless a business need to travel business class can be demonstrated.

There is a contractual requirement that the supplier offers lowest published airfares in accordance with the Government Airfare Programme in all cases. In order to achieve the lowest price, bookers are required to consider using consolidators (services, like brokers, that compare flight prices across a range of airlines for a particular flight route for the same time period), discounted fares, promotional offers and 'no-frills'/low-cost airlines. There is also a requirement that e-tickets are issued where this saves money.

The supplier must provide at least one alternative fare for every inquiry/booking made for air travel, and must offer the lowest practical fare available at the time of booking. They are also obliged to maximise the benefits available to the Department, enhancing point of sale activity in support of departmental requirement to reduce costs.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [72475]

(2) what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years; [72476]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72477]

Mr Simon Burns: The chief scientific adviser (CSA) at the Department of Health is Professor Dame Sally C Davies.

Dame Sally has been CSA and responsible for research and development since 2004. In addition to these responsibilities, Dame Sally was appointed Chief Medical Officer for England and Chief Medical Adviser to the UK Government on 1 March 2011.

There is no dedicated CSA support office at the Department. Colleagues across the Department support Dame Sally in her CSA role.

Dame Sally is a Permanent Secretary. Salaries for senior civil servants are published on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/senior-civil-servants-high-earners-salaries

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72478]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is committed to handling science and engineering advice in accordance with the Government chief scientific adviser's 'Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy-making'.

Wherever appropriate, we draw the attention of our agencies, non-departmental public bodies and contractors to guidance on scientific advice to Government. This includes, for example, the 'Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees' and the 'Principles for Scientific Advice to Government'.

Consultants

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 821W, on departmental manpower, what consultancy arrangements are in place in his Department; and with which firms. [72328]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is held on the Department's central procurement database on all open contracts with suppliers held by the Department. Information on the suppliers of consultancy services is in the following table:

Requirement description	*Consultancy category*	*Total approved spend (£)*	*Contract start*	*Contract end*	*Supplier name*
Integrated Care Pilot Programme	Organisation and change management	4,471,000.00	19 February 2009	31 December 2011	KPMG
Appointment of legal advisers on the sale of NHS Professionals	Legal	275,000.00	3 November 2010	1 June 2012	Norton Rose Vieregge
Adviser to Support The Evaluation of NHS Professionals	Finance	475,000.00	23 March 2010	1 June 2012	PWC
Mids Staffordshire Inquiry	Marketing and comms	75,000.00	16 December 2010	1 February 2012	Central Office of Information
NHS Transition Programme	Organisation and change management	250,000.00	24 March 2011	31 December 2011	McKinsey & Co
Technical advice to the CAF programme	Technical	69,000.00	31 March 2011	31 December 2011	Portico
Estates transition programme	Property and construction	57,390.00	13 April 2011	31 December 2011	Capita Symonds
Legal advice for care provision	Legal	25,000.00	27 April 2011	31 December 2011	Allen and Overy
Legal advice for care provision	Legal	25,000.00	5 May 2011	31 December 2011	Baker Tilly
Fit for Work Service	Organisation and change management	45,000.00	9 May 2011	31 December 2011	Tribal Consulting Ltd

[1] Contract value.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72569]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department uses the Government Procurement Service (formerly Buying Solutions) framework agreements to access services provided by external solicitors. The framework rates for the services provided by the suppliers on these frameworks are on average £183 per hour across the firms, including partners (the rates for whom are higher and are used less regularly). For barristers, the Department is required to use the Attorney-General's panel system for Junior Counsel. The latest rates for these panels are as follows:

Junior Counsel to the Crown—C Panel: July 2011

Hourly rate: £60 if under five years' call; £80 if over five years' call

Junior Counsel to the Crown—B Panel: August 2011

Hourly rate: £100

Junior Counsel to the Crown—A Panel: August 2011

Hourly rate: £120

Counsel who take silk are for the first 12 months generally paid at £180 per hour, and then paid at a rate between £180 and £250 per hour after that.

The Department's efficiency measures govern how professional services are commissioned by officials, including all spend on external legal services. All requirements for external legal advice are assessed by officials in the Department's Procurement, Investment and Commercial Division in conjunction with colleagues in the Government Legal Service before contracts are let with solicitors or barristers.

Information from the Department's central procurements database shows that expenditure on external legal services by the Department for financial year 2010-11 was as follows:

	£
Beachcroft LLP	31,170.73
Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP	12,075.00
Bevan Brlttan LLP	13,160.25
Capsticks Solicitors LLP	80,034.20
DLA Piper UK LLP	46,990.75
Eversheds LLP	2,647,110.56
Hempsons Solicitors	83,439.66
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	115,000.00
Mills and Reeve LLP	61,580.95

The Department's procurement function often achieves a 10% to 20% reduction in the published rates for the Government Procurement Service framework agreements through further competition involving the pre-qualified firms of solicitors.

The Department does not hold records centrally about the identities or the number of staff involved in the delivery of services from these firms.

The Department has a Service Level Agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for the provision of legal advice (i.e. from legal staff directly employed by DWP). It is for DWP to commission the services of barristers as required using the panel rates as described above.

Adult Social Care

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has provided to local authorities on personal budgets. [72341]

Paul Burstow: The 'Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens' sets the context for the future direction of adult social care in England. It states that councils should provide personal budgets, preferably as a direct payment, for everyone eligible, by 2013.

Since the introduction of direct payments in 1997, the Government have issued guidance documents to support local authorities, the most recent being November 2009 when the regulations were updated, and extended direct payments to people who lacked capacity and certain mental health users. The guidance on direct payments assist local councils in making direct payments and provides guidance on how they can manage and administer them. A copy of the 'Guidance on Direct Payments' has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_104840

In 2007, the previous Administration published 'Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care'. The local performance framework which covers the delivery of all services by local government working alone or in partnership, to create an improved approach to local partnership, enabling local authorities and partners to work together to lead their area and better meet the public's needs. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081118

The Department of Health then issued a circular on 'Transforming Social Care' LAC (DH) (2008) 1 which provided details of the social care reform grant that central Government would make over a three-year period to support the cost of implementing a new system with personal budgets at its heart. A copy of the circular has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

LAC (DH) (2008)1

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_081934

Further circulars were issued on Transforming Social Care. These circulars have been placed in the Library and are available at the Department's website at:

LAC (DH) (2009)1

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_095719

LAC (DH) (2010)1

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_114790.pdf

General information relating to personal budgets is now on Think Local Act Personal website which is at:

http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in funding to local authorities on personal budgets for disabled people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough. [72342]

Paul Burstow: In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the spending review allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available to make it possible to protect people's access to care.

The Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not made an assessment in the west midlands or Dudley on the effects of reductions in funding to local authorities on personal budgets for disabled people.

'A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens', sets out that the Government expect councils to provide personal budgets to everyone eligible, preferably as a direct payment by 2013, and develop the big society, with more local preventative activity to support people's independence, particularly for disabled people.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the volatile substance abuse framework document, Out of sight, not out of mind; and whether he plans to review the framework. [70459]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

The volatile substance abuse framework was developed under the previous Administration and no recent assessment has been made of it. There are no plans to review the framework.

General Practitioners: Conferences

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a transcript of the remarks he made at the conference for clinical commissioning groups held on 14 September 2011. [72301]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), spoke to a large audience of emerging clinical commissioning group leaders at a joint NHS Alliance and National Association of Primary Care conference at the Royal Horticultural Halls and Conference Centre on 14 September 2011.

A copy of the Secretary of State's speech has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website:

http://mediacentre.dh.gov.uk/2011/09/16/speech-16-september-2011-andrew-lansley-napc-nhs-alliance-conference/

General Practitioners: North-east England

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the names are of the clinical commissioning group board members for the North East; and which of these received remuneration from *(a)* Virgin Health and *(b)* Assura. [72716]

Mr Simon Burns: Emerging clinical commissioning groups currently operate under delegated authority from primary care trusts (PCTs), as a committee or sub-committee of a PCT. They cannot have a Board until they are formally established. The Department would not hold details of board members.

Hay Diet

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the Hay Diet; and what his policy is on the use of such diets in education on healthy living. [72300]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold any specific evidence on the Hay diet. The Department advises that the pubic should follow a balanced diet, as shown in the eatwell plate that includes plenty of fruit and vegetables and starchy foods and is low in salt, saturated fat and added sugars.

Public Health

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what joint work is being undertaken between Public Health Responsibility Deals and Change4Life. [72672]

Anne Milton: The Responsibility Deal and Change4Life are two separate initiatives which both aim to improve public health. Change4Life is a society-wide movement that aims to prevent people from becoming overweight by encouraging them to eat better and move more. It is the marketing component of the Government's response to the rise in obesity and as such, it is a useful vehicle for public facing Responsibility Deal activities.

One example of the joint work between the Responsibility Deal and Change4Life is the individual Responsibility Deal pledge commitment by the Association of Convenience Stores to work with its members to roll out Change4Life branding into 1,000 stores to improve fruit and vegetable availability in deprived areas.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he has allocated to each Public Health Responsibility Deal network in financial years *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [72673]

Anne Milton: In 2011-12, the Department has allocated funding of £100,000 to cover costs relating to the central running of the Responsibility Deal.

It is not possible to provide information on funding in future years because budgets are subject to the Department's business planning process which takes place each year for the following financial year.

Implementation of the Public Health Responsibility Deal pledges will be carried out by partner organisations and the costs of doing this will be incurred by these organisations.

Health and Social Care Bill

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the drafting by Parliamentary Counsel of the text of and amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill *(a)* before its First Reading on 19 January 2011 and *(b)* from 20 January 2011 to date. [72299]

Mr Simon Burns: The estimated cost to the Department of Health of the drafting by Parliamentary Counsel of the text and amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 is £294,000. Of this, £154,000 relates to the period before the Bill's first reading on 19 January 2011, and £140,000 relates to the period from 20 January 2011 to date.

This figure relates the costs charged to the Department by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

Health Professions: Regulation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to govern the training and regulation of health care assistants. [72359]

Anne Milton: There are no plans to introduce statutory regulation for health care assistants.

The Government's view, as set out in the Command Paper "Enabling Excellence", is that the approach to the regulation of health and social care workers must be proportionate and targeted, and we do not believe that the case has been made for subjecting low-paid workers to an additional tier of regulation.

Employers of health care assistants must take responsibility for the quality of services provided. It is also essential that appropriate professional responsibility is taken and accountability demonstrated for effectively supervising any unregulated support staff.

The Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament will enable a system of assured voluntary registration to be established for health and social care workers not subject to statutory regulation, including health care assistants.

Subject to parliamentary approval, this will provide employers with an additional mechanism to satisfy themselves that unregulated workers are appropriately trained and qualified.

Health Services: North-east England

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent Care Quality Commission inspectors were tasked with undertaking inspections as part or all of their work in the North East Strategic Health Authority region in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [72717]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been supplied by the Care Quality Commission (CQC):

2009-10

On 1 April 2009 there were 41.37 whole-time equivalent (WTE) inspectors/assessors involved in carrying out inspections plus two dedicated enforcement inspectors, who also carried out inspections associated with enforcement activity in the North East Strategic Health Authority (NE SHA). In Quarter 2 of 2009, internal restructuring led to nine redundancies in the NE SHA region and consequently from 1 January 2010 there were 32.37 WTE inspectors plus two enforcement inspectors.

2010-11

The establishment of compliance inspectors in the NE SHA region was 33 WTE posts However, from 17 May 2010, a new field force restructure was implemented that aimed to re-direct CQC resources to front line from its overall budgeted allocation for staff. This led to an increase to 39 WTE compliance inspectors in the NE region with effect from 3 February 2011.

There is no reference to enforcement inspectors in 2010-11 as these roles were subsumed into the compliance inspector roles.

At the present time all posts of compliance inspector are filled.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many workplace inspections Care Quality Commission inspectors undertook in the North East Strategic Health Authority region in *(a)* the independent sector and *(b)* NHS workplaces in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [72718]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England and is responsible for developing and consulting on its methodology for assessing whether providers are meeting the registration requirements under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

CQC provided the following information about inspections it carried out in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Inspections/reviews undertaken by the Care Quality Commission in the North East Strategic Health Authority region during 2009-10 and 2010-11

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Independent healthcare establishments inspected under the Care Standards Act 2000	31	13
Independent healthcare establishments inspected under the Health and Social Care Act 2008[3]	n/a	4
NHS locations	[1]n/k	[2]23
Adult social care establishments inspected under the Care Standards Act 2000	754	328
Adult social care establishments inspected under the Health and Social Care Act 2008[3]	n/a	128

[1] Not known. There were two forms of NHS inspections that took place in 2009-10:

The Healthcare Associated Infection programme inspected all acute trusts and the ambulance trust in the North East Region. The number of exact site visits was not recorded.

Core standards assessments were also undertaken in the 2009-10 financial year as follow up visits to the 2008-09 Annual Health Check. There were two undertaken in the NE region in this period. The exact number of site visits was not recorded during the core standards assessment programme of work.

[2] Since 1 April 2010, NHS providers have been registered against the full set of registration requirements under the 2008 Act.

[3] Since 1 October 2010, CQC has registered private and voluntary healthcare and adult social care providers under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, replacing the existing registration of these providers under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Notes:

1. For 2009-10 and 2010-11 the figures indicate the number of inspections completed that have led to an inspection report. Any follow up inspection activity to check on action carried out following an initial inspection, or details of inspections carried out related to enforcement activity may not be included in these data.
2. These inspections figures do not include joint inspections of children's services with Ofsted, inspections of health services for young offenders with Youth Offending Teams, controlled drugs inspections or Ionising Radiation inspections. It also does not include visits carried out under the Mental Health Act.

Health: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of introducing a statutory duty on the Secretary of State for Health and health bodies to promote health research. [72516]

Mr Simon Burns: Clause 5 of the Health and Social Care Bill outlines a duty that, in exercising functions in relation to the health service, the Secretary of State must have regard to the need to promote research on matters relevant to the health service, and the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research.

Clause 20 of the Bill outlines further provisions for the NHS Commissioning Board including a duty that the Board must, in the exercise of its functions, have regard to the need to promote research on matters relevant to the health service, and the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research.

Clause 23 of the Bill outlines general duties for clinical commissioning groups including a duty that each group must, in the exercise of its functions, have regard to the need to promote research on matters relevant to the health service, and the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research.

Clause 62 of the Bill outlines matters Monitor must have regard to in exercising its functions, including a duty that it must have regard to the need to promote research on matters relevant to the national health service by persons who provide health care services for the purposes of the NHS.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health

(1) what performance measure of inpatient referral to treatment time his Department has assessed as the most effective indicator of *(a)* NHS trust or NHS foundation trust performance and *(b)* NHS performance nationwide; [72308]

(2) what performance measure of inpatient referral to treatment time his Department has assessed as the most effective indicator of waiting times. [72309]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department believes it is important to monitor and report information on the time patients waited before starting their treatment and on the waiting time of those yet to start treatment. This provides patients with information to inform their choices of where they want to be treated. It also enables NHS organisations to benchmark their own performance and ensure that they are delivering a high quality service to their patients.

As set out in the "NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12" published on 15 December 2010,

> 'patients' rights to access services within maximum waiting times under the National Health Service Constitution will continue'

and

> 'there will be monitoring of compliance with this and the 95th percentile of waiting time'.

In line with this, the Department publishes statistics on both the patient wait until the start of treatment and on the patient wait for those still waiting. In both cases, the information published includes the percentage of patients within 18 weeks, the 95th percentile and average (median) wait. This information is provided at an England level broken down by NHS commissioner and provider and by treatment function. Detailed tables by commissioner and provider can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/ReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/index.htm

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

meet identified user needs;

are well explained and readily accessible;

are produced according to sound methods, and

are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Influenza: Vaccination

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the level of uptake was of the influenza vaccination offered by the NHS amongst *(a)* people aged over 65 years, *(b)* pregnant women, *(c)* people with a serious medical condition, *(d)* residents in (i) a long-stay residential care home and (ii) other long-stay care facilities, *(e)* main carers of elderly or disabled people and *(f)* frontline health and social care workers in each of the last five years. [72262]

Anne Milton: The data that are available on the uptake of seasonal influenza vaccine by various groups in England in the seasonal influenza vaccination programmes in the years 2006-07 to 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

Percentage

Group	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
(a) Age 65 years and older	73.9	73.5	74.1	72.4	72.8
(b) Pregnant women[1]	—	—	—	—	38.0
(c) Age less than 65 years in a seasonal influenza clinical risk group[2]	42.1	45.3	47.1	51.6	50.4
(d) Residents in a long-stay residential care home and other long-stay care facilities[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(e) Carers	36.3	36.2	39.0	42.3	42.7
(f) Frontline health care workers[4]	14.0	13.4	16.5	26.4	34.7

n/a = not available

[1] Pregnant women were offered seasonal influenza vaccine routinely from 2010-11.

[2] The seasonal influenza clinical risk groups include chronic respiratory disease, chronic heart disease, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, chronic neurological disease, diabetes and immunosuppression.

[3] No data on these groups have been collected.

[4] Data for 2006-07 to 2008-09 are for acute trusts only. No data are collected on the uptake of seasonal influenza vaccine by frontline social care workers.

The data above are taken from reports available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Immunisation/Keyvaccineinformation/DH_104070

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for expenditure on national influenza vaccination publicity in 2011-12. [72345]

Anne Milton: Final spend on publicity for the seasonal flu programme in 2011-12 is yet to be confirmed.

The Department will not be running a national vaccination advertising campaign for the 2011-12 flu season. To date in 2011-12 the Department has spent money on updating information materials for use by health professionals and is intending to run reminder messages on pharmacy bags. These messages aim to encourage people in at-risk groups to be vaccinated against seasonal flu. They will appear on pharmacy bags across 2,225 pharmacies in England and run for four weeks until 20 November. Pharmacy bags will support local campaigns as they target people in at-risk groups in a relevant setting, i.e. when they are collecting their prescription from their pharmacy.

Following last winter, the Department has reviewed the evidence base for mass media campaigns in driving uptake and it is not clear that advertising results in more people being vaccinated. Vaccine uptake rates in 2010 were very similar to previous years. Therefore, the Department is not planning to run a national advertising campaign for seasonal flu vaccination this autumn.

Methadone: Wirral

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each Parliamentary constituency in the Wirral have been using methadone for *(a)* four, *(b)* five, *(c)* six, *(d)* seven, *(e)* eight, *(f)* nine and *(g)* 10 or more consecutive years. [72347]

Anne Milton: Information is not collected by parliamentary constituency. I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1122W.

NHS: Finance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure has been approved by each strategic health authority under paragraph 5.6 of the NHS Operating Framework 2011-12. [72332]

Mr Simon Burns: The following 2011-12 non-recurrent planned expenditure has been approved by each strategic health authority to date, and has also been supported by the strategic health authority directors of finance group in accordance with the 2% non-recurrent expenditure requirement for primary care trusts, as laid out in the "2011-12 Operating Framework".

Strategic health authority	*£ million*
North-east	93.6
North-west	247.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	169.0

Strategic health authority	*£ million*
East midlands	139.7
West midlands	179.5
East of England	126.9
London	207.0
South-east coast	75.3
South central	85.5
South-west	102.8
Total	1,427.2

A significant part of the 2% non-recurrent expenditure relates to the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention initiatives in both trust and primary care trusts, and service redesign costs not related to the new landscape.

NHS: Private Patients

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the level of the cap on private patient income is for each NHS foundation trust; [72281]

(2) how much income from private patients each NHS foundation trust received in each of the last five financial years; and what proportion of their *(a)* private patient income cap and *(b)* total turnover such income represented in each case. [72297]

Mr Simon Burns: The information relating to the last two years has been placed in the Library.

Due to changes in accounting practice the information relating to the previous three years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ophthalmic Services: Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he has allocated to the NHS for eye lens treatments in financial year 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [72727]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trust (PCT) recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is currently for PCTs to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

Pancreatic Cancer: Screening

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. [72264]

Paul Burstow: On 12 January 2011, we published "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer". The strategy sets out an ambition to save at least an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy. To support earlier diagnosis of cancer, the Government have committed over £450 million over the next four years, which includes provision for the funding of awareness activity and measures to support general practitioners to diagnose cancer earlier.

The strategy also sets out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer-focused charities to assess what more can be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care and to diagnose rarer cancers earlier. Departmental officials have already met with a number of these charities, including a pancreatic cancer charity, with the aim of identifying some of the barriers to early diagnosis and to discuss potential solutions. This will inform our future work in this area.

On 16 September, we announced plans to roll out a regional awareness symptom campaign focusing on lung cancer in October and a national campaign focussing on bowel cancer next year. In addition, there will be local trial campaigns for less common cancers, namely oesophagogastric cancer and the symptom blood in urine (an indicator of kidney and bladder cancers). Work is also under way to test the feasibility of developing a more generic cancer campaign that could apply to all cancer types including pancreatic cancer.

Plastic Surgery: Regulation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has considered the merits of establishing an official regulatory body for the cosmetic surgery industry. [72521]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter) and my hon. Friend the Member for Hove (Mike Weatherley) on 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1055W.

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future commissioning of radiotherapy. [72663]

Paul Burstow: The Government's proposals are to pass the commissioning of most services, including cancer services to groups of general practitioner practices, known as clinical commissioning groups. However, some specialised commissioning will be directly commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board. Decisions have not yet been taken about the appropriate level for commissioning radiotherapy services.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Cancer Action Team is taking to address geographical differences in radiotherapy treatment. [72664]

Paul Burstow: The National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) supports local teams, cancer networks and commissioners by providing a range of advice, tools and support modelling demand for improving capacity, quality and productivity of radiotherapy services.

The Department and NCAT published the first annual report of the radiotherapy dataset "RTDS Annual Report 2009/2010" in August. It provides an accurate baseline from which we can measure and assess improvements and changes in radiotherapy services and enables local services to focus on understanding the reasons for variations.

A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the recommendations of the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group, what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Cancer

Action Team is taking to ensure that stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment is made available to more NHS patients; [72665]

(2) whether local trusts are required to implement the recommendations of the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group report which have been accepted by his Department. [72666]

Paul Burstow: The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group (NRIG) report, "Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) Guidelines for Commissioners, Providers and Clinicians in England 2011", which has been made available on the National Cancer Action Team website at:

www.ncat.nhs.uk/our-work/ensuring-better-treatment/radiotherapy

made a comprehensive assessment of the role and opportunities for SBRT in cancer treatment. The report brought together all the existing evidence on SBRT and concluded that only a small number of patients would benefit from this treatment. There are at least 20 radiotherapy centres across the country with the capability of delivering this treatment.

Ensuring that all cancer patients receive the appropriate treatment delivered to a high standard is critical to improving cancer outcomes. It is now for the local NHS to take account of this guidance when considering whether to commission SBRT for a particular indication. As with all clinical decisions, these should be made locally on a case-by-case basis taking into account the individual circumstances of each patient.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 694W, on the Specialised Service Transitional Oversight Group, how many of those appointed to the Specialised Service Transitional Oversight Group have a professional *(a)* medical and *(b)* financial background. [72732]

Mr Simon Burns: Membership of the Specialised Service Transitional Oversight Group is drawn from a broad range of stakeholders with an interest in specialised commissioning. Dr Kathy McLean, Chair of the clinical advisory group, has a medical background.

The Transitional Oversight Group is part of a wider governance framework.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report,* columns 586-7W, on radiotherapy, (1) where in the 2011-12 recurrent revenue allocation exposition book the allocation from the £150 million budget for expanding radiotherapy capacity is located; [72734]

(2) whether the £150 million budget is ring-fenced for expenditure on expanding radiotherapy capacity by trusts in their localities; [72735]

(3) how much of the £150 million to be spent on expanding radiotherapy capacity will be made available in the *(a)* second, *(b)* third and *(c)* fourth years. [72736]

Paul Burstow: The exposition book 2011-12 sets out the fair shares calculation, which underpins each primary care trust's (PCT) total resource allocation. This calculation takes into account local population characteristics to ensure that each PCT is given a total allocation in line with the relative needs of its population. The total resource allocation for each PCT is calculated using local population characteristics on an overall basis, rather than being calculated as a sum of individual treatment areas. Therefore, the £150 million funding for increased radiotherapy capacity is not listed separately in the exposition book; it is captured as part of the overall resource allocations in the 'Allocations' tab.

The £150 million is not ring-fenced. Overall baseline allocations are currently set on the basis of a weighted capitation formula, used to determine PCTs target shares of overall national health service resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. The Secretary of State for Health does not mandate how much individual PCTs are to spend on particular services within these overall allocations. PCTs have local discretion to decide how to use their overall allocation to commission services, including radiotherapy services, to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

From 2011, available funding for expanding radiotherapy capacity is as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	13
2012-13	22
2013-14	32
2014-15	42

This excludes funding for expanding proton beam therapy services.

Radiotherapy: South-west England

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the 2010-11 recurrent revenue allocation exposition book, how much of the budget of *(a)* North Somerset Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Somerset Primary Care Trust and *(c)* the South West Strategic Health Authority was spent on radiotherapy services. [72733]

Mr Simon Burns: The South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) does not commission health care and so does not spend any resource on radiotherapy services. Information on spending by primary care trusts (PCTs) on radiotherapy services is not held centrally.

The 2010-11 recurrent revenue allocations for the above bodies are contained in the following table:

	2010-11 recurrent revenue allocation (£000)	*2010-11 cash increase (£000)*	*2010-11 cash increase (percentage)*
North Somerset PCT	306,265	18,308	6.4
Somerset PCT	796,505	44,988	6.0
South West SHA	8,035,411	427,194	5.6

Smoking: Children

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating children with passive smoking-related illnesses, including the cost of primary care visits and hospital admissions in the last year for which figures are available. [72325]

Anne Milton: The Department has not made an assessment of the cost to the NHS associated with the treatment of illnesses in children caused by exposure to second-hand smoke.

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP), in its 2010 report "Passive Smoking in Children", provided estimates of the approximate number of cases of disease and the consequent morbidity in children caused by exposure to second-hand smoke in the United Kingdom. This report also estimated the cost to the NHS of treating diseases caused by exposure to second-hand smoke among children in the United Kingdom. The RCP's report is available at:

http://bookshop.rcplondon.ac.uk/contents/pub305-e37e88a5-4643-4402-9298-6936de103266.pdf

Social Services: Reform

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's timetable is for producing a White Paper on the reform of social care following the Dilnot Report. [72287]

Paul Burstow: Following the launch of 'Caring for Our Future: Shared ambitions for care and support' on 15 September, we will be engaging widely on social care reform. This is an opportunity to bring together the recommendations from the Law Commission and the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support with the Government's Vision for Adult Social Care, and to discuss what the priorities for reform should be.

We will be engaging with stakeholders, carers and service users over the autumn to understand these priorities. Following this engagement, the Government are committed to publishing a care and support White Paper and a progress report on funding by April 2012. It remains our intention to legislate to this effect at the earliest opportunity.

Solvents: Misuse

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the work of *(a)* hospital trusts, *(b)* voluntary organisations and *(c)* local education authorities concerning the prevention of volatile substance abuse. [70461]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

No recent assessments have been made concerning the prevention of volatile substance abuse. Department for Education research published in February 2011 looked at the costs and benefits of specialist drug and alcohol services for young people. Also, as part of the 2010 Drug Strategy, officials looked at international evidence on preventing substance misuse, consulting widely on the most effective ways of doing so. Government Departments are working closely to ensure commitments made in the Drug Strategy are met.

The non-ringfenced Early Intervention Grant will allow local authorities to prioritise funding according to local need and where it will have the greatest impact.

Strokes: Medical Treatments

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of NHS stroke treatment; and if he will make a statement. [72362]

Mr Simon Burns: We continue to monitor the improvements made in stroke services through a variety of mechanisms. Both the National Sentinel Stroke audit and the Stroke Improvement National Audit Programme (SINAP) provide information on various aspects of stroke services. In particular, SINAP provides quarterly information about the care provided to stroke patients in their first three days in hospital that can be used to improve stroke services and so improve outcomes for patients.

Stroke is an integrated measure of performance in the "Operating Framework for the National Health Service in England for 2011/12". Information is collected quarterly on two key markers of good quality stroke care. Local health communities can use this data to help judge where improvements need to be made.

In addition, the Stroke Improvement Programme, which is part of NHS Improvement, is working through their networks using evidence-based approaches that are both clinically and cost-effective to go further in improving stroke care across the whole pathway.

Sunderland Royal Hospital: Waiting Lists

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on waiting lists for operations at Sunderland Royal hospital on 1 September in each year since 2005; and what the average waiting time was in each year. [72395]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on numbers of people on waiting lists for operations at individual hospitals is not centrally held.

The closest available data are monthly in-patient waiting list data. Information on in-patient (overnight and day case combined) waiting list statistics for City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (FT) on 31 August 2005-09 is shown in the following table:

	Total in-patient waiting list	*Average (median) waiting time (weeks)*
2005	5,889	6.5
2006	8,224	7.0
2007	6,827	5.9
2008	6,255	5.3
2009	5,935	4.2

Notes:

1. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
2. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the month.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
4. The MMRPROV return was discontinued from April 2010.

Source:

Department of Health Monthly Waiting Times—Monthly Monitoring Return Provider (MMRPROV).

Waiting list data for April 2010 onwards relate to Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting times. They show waiting times for the whole patient pathway, from initial referral through to the point at which either first definitive treatment is provided or a decision not to treat is made. Data on incomplete pathways relate to those patients still waiting at the end of the month.

Information on incomplete RTT waiting list statistics for City Hospitals Sunderland NHS FT on 31 August 2009 and 2010 is shown in the following table:

	Total number of incomplete pathways	*Average (median) waiting time (weeks)*
2009	23,575	5.0
2010	20,799	5.5

Notes:

1. RTT waiting times are measured from general practitioner referral to start of first definitive treatment.

2. Incomplete RTT pathways show waiting times for patients still waiting to start treatment at the end of the month.

3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

4. Incomplete RTT pathway data are available from August 2007.

Source:

Department of Health Referral to Treatment waiting times—RTT return

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 11 October 2011

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Females: Unemployment

Helen Jones: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent meetings she has had with ministerial colleagues to discuss the level of unemployment among women. [72661]

Lynne Featherstone: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues about a range of issues relevant to women.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Games 2012

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to his Department's announcement of 14 September 2011, whether Barnett consequential funding will arise from unspent London 2012 Olympics funding that is to be allocated to Visit England. [72826]

Hugh Robertson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, recently announced that around £3 million from the public sector funding package for the Olympic and Paralympic Games would be made available to support a domestic tourism campaign to maximise the economic benefits from the Torch Relay and the Cultural Olympiad. This does not constitute the reallocation of unspent Olympic funds, but rather an investment in a key objective of the Olympic programme: to ensure that the benefits from the Games are felt throughout the UK. We hope to include the devolved nations in this campaign and the Secretary of State is in discussions with ministerial colleagues with regard to this possibility. The Olympic and Paralympic Games are a national project and Barnett consequential do not apply.

JUSTICE

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there were as a direct result of a motor vehicle's number plate triggering an automatic number plate recognition camera in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [72608]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to separately identify those specific cases where the defendant was proceeded against as a direct result of a motor vehicle's number plate triggering an automatic number plate recognition camera.

Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database do not include information about the circumstances behind each case, other than that which may be identified from a statute.

Driving Offences: Sentencing

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions has he had with the Attorney-General on reviewing the maximum sentence for dangerous driving; and if he will make a statement. [72417]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government are creating a new criminal offence of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, which will carry a five-year maximum prison sentence. This will be introduced into the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

The offence is a direct response to the concerns expressed by victims of dangerous driving, and those who represent them. It will allow the most serious consequences of dangerous driving to be dealt with fully by the courts.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had on the likely effects of the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill on the human rights of people in developing countries harmed by UK companies. [72850]

Mr Djanogly: Overseas victims of alleged corporate harm by UK multinational companies are currently able to bring civil claims in the UK where appropriate, and this will continue to be the case following implementation of our reforms to civil litigation funding and costs. My officials and I have met with relevant stakeholders, including the Coalition for Corporate Responsibility (CORE), Amnesty International and Oxfam, to discuss the impact of the proposed reforms.

Youth Justice Board

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many representations he has received proposing that the Youth Justice Board be abolished; and from whom; [72415]

(2) how many representations he has received proposing that the Youth Justice Board remain as a separate entity from his Department; and from whom. [72528]

Mr Blunt: In July 2011, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) launched a public consultation on the proposals for reform of the majority of MOJ bodies in the Public Bodies Bill to ensure that as many interested parties as possible could contribute views. The consultation closes on 11 October and includes the proposals relating to the future of the Youth Justice Board. Information on the result of the consultation will be published in the usual manner.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

International Climate Fund Implementation Plan

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in the development of the International Climate Fund Implementation Plan. [73007]

Gregory Barker: We are currently working with the Department for International Development, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and HM Treasury to finalise the International Climate Fund Implementation Plan. We will publish the document later this month.

Wind Power

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many working on shore wind farms were not operational on *(a)* 11, *(b)* 12 and *(c)* 13 September 2011; and for what reasons. [72610]

Charles Hendry: All of the 46 working large onshore wind farms where National Grid monitors output were operational on 11 to 13 September 2011. However, output from some of those onshore wind farms was curtailed or stopped for parts of the days in question, as follows:

(a) 11 September 2011: 11 wind farms;

(b) 12 September 2011: nine wind farms; and

(c) 13 September 2011: 16 wind farms.

This was due to high levels of wind output in Scotland which the transmission network in that area did not have the capacity to carry.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Sitting Days

Mrs Main: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what estimate the Commission has made of the marginal cost to the public purse of the House of Commons sitting for two weeks in September. [71539]

John Thurso: The marginal cost of this year's additional sitting has been relatively low as most operating costs are fixed costs and are therefore unaffected by the number and distribution of sittings, and there was sufficient notice to take the September sitting into account when planning the works programme. We estimate a marginal cost of around £200,000 will be incurred as the direct result of the two-week sitting in September. To avoid an accumulating backlog of works, further September sittings would be likely to have a marginal cost of some £1.5 million.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Correspondence

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Bury South of 29 July 2011. [72828]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Sadiq Khan: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what information the Electoral Commission holds on the amount each local authority is planning to spend on voter registration in 2011-12. [73766]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not currently hold any information on the amount each local authority plans to spend on electoral registration in future financial years. This information is collected only once the financial year has ended.

Over the last three financial years, local authorities across Great Britain spent £82 million (2009-10), £83 million (2008-09) and £81 million (2007-08) on electoral registration.

The Commission is currently collecting information for the 2010-11 financial year and will be publishing a report with the data on their website in December 2011. A copy will also be placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Criminal Proceedings: Victim Support

3. **Mr Dodds:** To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of the level of support provided by the Crown Prosecution Service for victims participating in criminal proceedings. [72846]

The Attorney-General: There is a comprehensive network of joint police and Crown Prosecution Service Witness Care Units, whose role is to provide support to victims and witnesses in the Criminal Justice System. The Victim and Witness Satisfaction Survey in September 2010 found that 85% of victims and witnesses are satisfied with their experience of the Criminal Justice System.

TREASURY

Departmental Manpower

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. [71889]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 16W. Officials from the Treasury have worked closely with DCLG officials on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework. Approximately four HM Treasury officials were substantively involved in its development.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the practitioners' advisory group. [71894]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 16W. Officials from the Treasury have worked closely with DCLG officials on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework. Two HM Treasury officials provided information when asked by the Advisory Group.

Parish Councils: PAYE

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice and guidance his Department gives to parish councils in respect of their responsibility for PAYE for parish clerks. [71958]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) provide a range of help to all small employers, including parish councils. HMRC provides a free, downloadable toolkit that will enable a council to discharge all its Pay As You Earn (PAYE) obligations simply and without incurring further cost. HMRC runs free seminars where those in councils responsible for PAYE can receive face-to-face training in payroll.

HMRC recognises the burden on parishes of having to operate PAYE for the first time. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have a team of advisers who have been specially briefed to deal with enquiries from parish councils. These advisers can be contacted on 0845 607 0143.

HMRC has published special guidance for parishes. This is accessible at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers/parish_council.pdf

HMRC is also working with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to ensure smaller parishes understand, and can access, the various help and advice available to them.

Public Sector Net Cash Requirement

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on gross domestic product growth in quarter three and quarter four of 2011 of the infrastructure measures announced by the Deputy Prime Minister on 14 September 2011. [72764]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The Chancellor has asked the OBR to publish a new economic and fiscal forecast on 29 November.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate public sector net borrowing in 2012 if gross domestic product growth is *(a)* 1.3 per cent. and *(b)* two per cent; [72765]

(2) if he will estimate public sector net debt in 2011 if gross domestic product growth is 1.3 per cent. [72766]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent questions.

The central forecast in our March Economic and fiscal outlook (EFO) was for GDP growth of 1.7 per cent in 2011 and 2.5 per cent in 2012. Net debt was projected to rise to 66.1 per cent of GDP in 2011-12 and to 69.7 per cent of GDP in 2012-13.

As always, there is considerable uncertainty around such point estimates. In light of this, we undertake extensive sensitivity and scenario analysis in order to illustrate the implications for the public finances of altering some of the key parameters and judgements in the central forecast.

As set out in the EFO document, for these purposes we use a ready-reckoner that assumes a 1 per cent change in GDP in a given year will result in a 0.5 per cent of GDP change in public sector net borrowing (PSNB) in the first year, and a 0.7 per cent of GDP change in PSNB after two years.

This gives a broad-brush guide to the scale of the impact, by assuming that the difference in GDP is structural; the composition of GDP remains unchanged; and that, given the state of the economy, there are no errors in forecasting receipts or expenditure. In reality, there are additional uncertainties around all of these factors. We illustrate some of the general uncertainty through the use of a fan chart, which shows the probability of different borrowing outcomes based on past forecast errors.

We will update our forecasts on 29th November. The Charter for Budget Responsibility requires us to produce each of our fiscal and economic forecasts on a date announced to Parliament by the Chancellor. In line with this, it would not be appropriate to publish new estimates in isolation prior to the publication of the November EFO.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Inland Revenue Debt Enforcement Unit will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Coventry South of 8 September, reference: 190PR101450. [72779]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs issued a reply to the hon. Member for Coventry South on 13 September 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cluster Munitions

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will amend the Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Act 2010 to prohibit British banks from making investments in companies that produce cluster munitions; and if he will make a statement. [72763]

Alistair Burt: The Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act 2010 comprehensively implements in UK law all of the prohibitions set out in the convention on cluster munitions.

Issues of funding and finance are not covered in the convention. However, direct and explicit financing of cluster munitions production is caught by the Act's prohibition on assisting and encouraging the use of cluster munitions, and is therefore illegal in the UK.

The issue of indirect financing, including investments in companies that may produce cluster munitions alongside a range of other items and services, is an issue for individual institutions to consider under their own investment charters and social corporate responsibility agendas.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Russia, *(b)* China and *(c)* the US on their signature of the convention on cluster munitions; and if he will make a statement. [72817]

Alistair Burt: Globalising the convention on cluster munitions is a Government priority.

The UK became a state party to the convention in November 2010, and since then we have worked to fulfil its obligations: destruction of the UK's stockpile is ahead of schedule; £30 million is being provided by the Department for International Development over 2010-13 to support Mine Action; and we are working to increase the convention's membership. Most recently my officials have organised initiatives to promote the convention within the Commonwealth.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has consistently taken opportunities to lobby counterparts from Russia, China and the US to prohibit cluster munitions and to join the convention. This has included discussions in London, at relevant international meetings, and direct lobbying through our overseas network.

Libya: UN Resolutions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of UK participants in the Paris conference on the future of Libya were women; and if he will make a statement. [72625]

Alistair Burt: The UK was represented at the Paris summit conference on the future of Libya by the Prime Minister and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Paraguay: Forests

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask HM ambassador in Paraguay to raise with the Paraguayan authorities allegations of illegal land clearances within the ancestral lands of the Ayoreo-Totobiegosode Indians in the Chaco. [72612]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Paraguay's constitution gives legal recognition to its indigenous people. Paraguay has ratified the indigenous and tribal people's convention of the International Labour Organisation and voted in favour for the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, Paraguay's institutional framework could more effectively protect and promote the rights of indigenous people. During the recent Universal Periodic Review of Paraguay's human rights record at the UN, the UK pushed for Paraguay to ensure land disputes involving indigenous people are resolved effectively. Paraguay accepted this recommendation and committed to establishing a proper process to do so. UK relations with Paraguay are conducted through our embassy in Buenos Aires. The UK will continue to monitor this situation from there and through the EU Delegation in Asuncion.

HEALTH

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of establishing strategic health authority clusters on the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund at strategic health authority level; and if he will make a statement. [72767]

Paul Burstow: It is our intention that the clustering of strategic health authorities will not adversely affect the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund. Work is in progress to scope options for ensuring cancer patients will be unaffected by these changes and that we continue to realise the benefits of the Cancer Drugs Fund.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 562W, on cancer: drugs, whether strategic health authorities will be required to account for any funds from their weighted capitation share of the Cancer Drugs Fund that are unspent at the end of each financial year; and if he will make a statement. [72768]

Mr Simon Burns: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are accountable for the resources available to them, including the Cancer Drugs Fund.

We expect regional SHA clinical panels to plan according to their allocated shares of the available funding. The Department will monitor SHA spend from the Cancer Drugs Fund and transfers between SHAs can be considered if a good reason arises.

Data Protection

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the rate of compliance by NHS personnel with information security guidance issued by *(a)* him and *(b)* NHS Connecting for Health. [72776]

Mr Simon Burns: Each national health service organisation is legally responsible for the security of the information it holds and for ensuring that its staff comply with local security policies and procedures. The Department has published an information security code of practice and a range of good practice guidelines to support NHS bodies and the NHS chief executive has recently written, jointly with the Information Commissioner, to all NHS chief executive officers to emphasise the importance of robust information governance.

NHS organisations complete an information governance assessment each year through the online NHS information governance toolkit which can be found at:

https://www.igt.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/

and which also enables each organisation's performance results to be viewed.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance on information security *(a)* he and *(b)* NHS Connecting for Health have issued to NHS personnel on the use of (i) mobile devices, (ii) laptops, (iii) e-mail accounts and (iv) other IT equipment owned by NHS personnel and used for official business relating to (A) non-patient-identifiable information and (B) patient-identifiable information. [72777]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has published an information security code of practice and a range of good practice guidelines to support national health service bodies covering all of the topic's references. This guidance is made available through the NHS information governance toolkit which can be found at:

https://www.igt.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what security breaches involving official material stored on equipment *(a)* provided by NHS organisations and *(b)* owned by NHS employees and used for NHS-related purposes there were in each of the last five years. [72778]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. For the past two years, national health service organisations have been required to publish details of security incidents on their websites.

Policy Teams

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy teams there are within his Department. [72676]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold information about its policy teams in a way that specifically distinguishes policy teams from other teams, such as operational or corporate business teams.

In March 2011, as part of the latest transparency exercise, the Department published its organisational chart or 'organogram', including details of every branch and senior staff in the Department. This is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/HowDHworks/Transparency/DH_127549

An update to the organogram is planned shortly as part of the wider transparency agenda.

Security

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of compliance by officials in his Department with security guidance issued by his Department. [72611]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department adheres to the Government's Security Policy Framework in developing its own security guidance and assessing compliance. Guidance to staff is set out in an Acceptable Use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) policy and other security related advice.

Responsibility for compliance rests with the Department's managers, who report through quarterly and annual information risk assessments. Specific security checks on how staff use IT services, such as email and the Internet, and on compliance with the Department's clear desk policy are carried out periodically and exceptions reported to managers. The small number of exceptions found is regarded as indicative of good compliance with the Department's security guidance.

In addition, an agreed programme of internal audits covers a full range of governance and internal control issues.

The assessment and audit activities outlined above provide evidence for an annual report to Cabinet Office on protective security and compliance, the Security Risk Management Overview (SRMO) Report. The Department's Accounting Officer and Senior Information Risk Owner endorse this report. In 2011, the Department reported in its SRMO that there were no significant risks to our protective security.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: Research

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department provided for research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in 2009-10. [72825]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department spent £0.4 million on directly-funded research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in 2009-10.

Exercise: Finance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was allocated to his Department's physical activity policy team in each of the last five financial years; and what budget has been allocated for the financial years *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [72626]

Mr Simon Burns: The funding allocation to the physical activity team in the last five financial years is as follows:

Financial year	*Budget allocation (£ million)*
2006-07	2.709
2007-08	1.213
2008-09	4.302
2009-10	28.156
2010-11	9.325
2011-12	12.35

The Department has not set budgets for 2012-13 and will do so as part of the usual business planning processes.

Influenza: Vaccination

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health against which strains of influenza he proposes that the influenza vaccination offered by the NHS will provide protection. [72280]

Anne Milton: Each year the World Health Organisation (WHO) advises on the influenza strains that are likely to circulate and, based on this advice, makes a recommendation on the composition of influenza vaccines for the following winter. The WHO has announced that the following influenza strains should be included in the 2011-12 trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine for the Northern Hemisphere:

an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus,

an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus and

a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

The seasonal influenza vaccines available to the national health service for the 2011-12 influenza season offer protection against these strains. Further details are provided in the chief medical officer's letter on the seasonal flu immunisation programme 2011-12, which can be accessed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_128175.pdf

A copy of this has been placed in the Library.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to encourage uptake of the influenza vaccination for the 2011-12 winter among *(a)* at risk groups, *(b)* carers and *(c)* health care professionals. [72298]

Anne Milton: The Department published the Seasonal Flu Plan on 25 May to assist local national health service organisations in developing robust and flexible operational plans for the 2011-12 flu season.

The chief medical officer wrote to the NHS on 14 March seeking assurance that primary care trusts have adequate local plans in place for the flu immunisation programme, have ordered sufficient vaccine and will use robust call and reminder systems to contact their eligible patients, including carers. The letter stated the need for the NHS to plan locally to increase uptake in people in the clinical risk groups.

Copies of the plan and letter have been placed in the Library.

Over the summer the chief medical officer, chief pharmaceutical officer, chief nursing officer and chief dental officer have written to the medical royal colleges, professional bodies, professional regulators and health charities to seek their support in increasing uptake of the seasonal flu vaccine in health care workers and their eligible patients, particularly those in at-risk groups.

Messages encouraging people in at-risk groups to be vaccinated against seasonal flu will appear on pharmacy bags across 2,225 pharmacies in England and run for four weeks until 20 November.

The NHS chief executive has asked NHS Employers and the Social Partnership Forum to run a staff vaccination communications campaign to increase awareness and uptake among frontline health care workers. NHS Employers are providing a series of free campaign materials to NHS organisations during September, before the start of the seasonal flu vaccination programme in October. Full details can be found on the NHS Employers website:

www.nhsemployers.org/flu

NHS Foundation Trusts

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1050W, on NHS foundation trusts and of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 720W, on NHS: legislative framework, what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the work programme for the foundation trust pipeline. [72662]

Mr Simon Burns: Further to the previous two answers in relation to the publication of the work programme for the national health service foundation trust pipeline, significant work has since been undertaken to fully determine the issues faced by individual NHS trusts and the actions trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs) need to undertake to address these.

This work has been necessary to ensure that the plans agreed for individual NHS trusts to move forward to NHS foundation trust status, will support all these organisations in becoming established as clinically sustainable and financially viable organisations, and best placed to deliver the best health outcomes for patients using services. In a number of NHS trusts, this process has required difficult decisions to be taken by trusts working with SHAs to support the achievement of this objective, for which locally-owned, robust plans are necessary. This has been the focus of the work carried out since the previous answers. A significant number of these plans are now signed off and published, with all the remaining plans for NHS trusts to move forward to NHS foundation trust status scheduled to be agreed and signed by the end of September.

Smoking: Motor Vehicles

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made on changing the behaviour of people smoking in cars carrying children since March 2011; and if he will make a statement; [72739]

(2) what arrangements his Department has made to measure its progress in achieving a reduction in the number of people smoking in cars with children as set out in the Tobacco Control Plan; and if he will make a statement; [72544]

(3) what progress he has made on exploring new roles for marketing communications in encouraging people to make their family cars smoke free; and if he will make a statement. [72547]

Anne Milton: As set out in the Tobacco Control Plan for England, the Department will launch a marketing campaign to remind smokers of the harms of secondhand smoke and to encourage smokers to make their homes and cars smokefree. This campaign is in the early stages of development and is expected to launch in March 2012. The tobacco marketing strategy, to be published later this year, will set out further details of how we will support efforts by local areas to encourage smokefree homes and cars ahead of the smokefree campaign.

At the request of the Department, the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England survey, included in 2010, for the first time, a question on whether the 11 to 15-year-olds surveyed were often near another person smoking in specific places. The results indicated that children are more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke in their home or other people's homes, than in vehicles. However, 19% of children reported that they are still often exposed to secondhand smoke in cars (compared to 26% at home and 32% in other people's homes).

A copy of this survey has been placed in the Library.

Everyone needs to take responsibility for protecting children's health, especially parents. We already know that secondhand smoke exposure in children in England has reduced over time. For example, between 1996 and 2007, exposure declined by nearly 70%[1].

The Tobacco Control Plan states that local areas should use behavioural insights in order to develop incentives, such as positive recognition for smokers that take voluntary action to make their homes and family cars smokefree. Rather than extending smokefree legislation, we want people to recognise the risks of secondhand smoke and decide voluntarily to make their homes and family cars smokefree. We will encourage local areas to create networks of local smokefree ambassadors at a community level to encourage people to make their homes and family cars smokefree.

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[1] Bauld, "Impact of smokefree legislation: evidence review" March 2011—copy already placed in the Library.

Tuberculosis: Screening

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects a decision to be made on funding for the *(a)* Find Treat Tuberculosis project and *(b)* mobile x-ray screening unit from April 2012; [72770]

(2) what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum length is of a contract allocated for services comparable to the Find and Treat Tuberculosis Project and mobile x-ray screening unit in NHS London; and if he will consider implementing similar services in other urban regions where there is a rising prevalence of tuberculosis. [72771]

Anne Milton: The national health service in London has funded the Find and Treat service since April 2011. Future funding for the Find and Treat service, including the Mobile X-Ray Unit, is currently being considered by NHS in London commissioners as part of the planning round for 2012 and beyond. A model of care for tuberculosis (TB) in the capital will be considered in early November 2011. This will include the possible future role of Find and Treat.

The Department does not collect information on the minimum and maximum lengths of contracts for services comparable to Find and Treat TB project. It is up to the local authorities and primary care trusts to make commissioning decisions regarding implementing services similar to Find and Treat.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of supporting asylum seekers who were not able to work in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [70722]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency provides support to everyone who claims asylum and who would otherwise be destitute, until they have exhausted their appeal rights. Support is also provided to failed asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and who face a legitimate barrier to return. Asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers are not permitted to work while the case is being considered other than in exceptional circumstances where there has been a delay of more than 12 months in deciding their case.

The cost of asylum support in the last five years was as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	524
2007-08	485
2008-09	511
2009-10	524
2010-11	401

Asylum support costs have been reduced by over £100 million in the last year, a 20% reduction, and we expect to bring costs down again this year.

In the last year the proportion of asylum seekers removed within one year of their application has nearly doubled and around 60% of applicants now receive a decision within one month. Our vision is an asylum system with swifter case conclusions and no backlogs, delivered at significantly lower cost to the taxpayer.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is available to the victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds. [71367]

Damian Green: Support is currently provided to victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds through a UK Border Agency (UKBA) funded project called Sojourner. This is limited to migrants who entered the UK as a spouse, civil partner, un-married or same-sex partner of a British citizen or person present and settled in the UK.

The project provides refuge places to vulnerable victims for a limited period while an application for indefinite leave to remain as a victim of domestic violence is considered by UKBA officials.

The Sojourner project is not a long term solution which is why, after April 2012, migrants on spousal visas in need of refuge places will be given a short period of leave so they will be able to access welfare benefits while their claim for indefinite leave to remain in the UK is considered. This is a major step to ensuring that this vulnerable group remains protected and safe from abuse.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 5 August 2011 with regard to Dr Peter Capon. [72621]

Damian Green: A reply to the right hon. Gentleman's letter was sent on 6 October 2011.

Missing Persons Bureau

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to make an announcement on the future of the Missing Persons Bureau. [72782]

James Brokenshire: The Missing Persons Bureau currently sits within the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). Ministers will update the House on plans for the future of NPIA functions in the autumn.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the next missing persons data and analysis report. [72783]

James Brokenshire: The National Policing Improvement Agency's Missing Persons Bureau intends to publish a second report focussing on the financial year 2010-11 in the new year 2012.

Police Deaths on Duty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in England and Wales were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured while on duty in each of the last 30 years. [72028]

Nick Herbert: Available information relates to assaults on police officers resulting in fatal and serious injury, from 1999-2000 to 2010-11 is given in tables 1 and 2 (the tables indicate where forces did not make a statistical return for the assaults—two tables are given to better accommodate the footnotes).

Table 1: Assaults[1] on police officers resulting in fatal and serious injury, England and Wales, 1999-2000 to 2004-05[2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]

	Fatal	Serious
1999-2000	1	299
2000-01	1	349
2001-02	1	400
2002-03	4	263
2003-04	0	253
2004-05	0	262

[1] Provisional data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data include the sum of injuries for the 43 police forces in England and Wales.

[3] HMIC did not publish a force breakdown of assaults prior to 1999-2000. 2004-05 was the period for which HMIC published assaults data for the last time.

[4] Northamptonshire was not able to separate serious assaults from 1999-2000 to 2002-03.

[5] Lancashire, Greater Manchester and West Midlands were not able to provide data in 2003-04.

[6] Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide these data in 2004-05.

[7] Metropolitan police was unable to provide these data in 2000-01 and 2001-02 to 2003-04.

[8] South Wales was not able to provide these data in 1999-2000.

Table 2: Assaults[1] on police officers resulting in fatal and serious injury, England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2010-11[2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]

	Fatal	Serious
2005-06	3	423
2006-07	0	506
2007-08	1	502
2008-09	1	439
2009-10	0	381
2010-11	0	333

[1] Provisional data collated on behalf of HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data include the sum of injuries for the 43 police forces in England and Wales.

[3] These data were released as supplementary datasets to the HMIC Annual Report by Home Office Statistics from 2005-06 to 2009-10 except for 2010-11.

[4] Cambridgeshire were not able to provide consistent figures from 2005-06 and 2006-07. Their reporting 2007-08 data are therefore not comparable with previous years data.

[5] Cheshire from 2005-06 to 2008-09 and Warwickshire from 2005-06 to 2007-08 were not able to provide data from the HR recording system, data are therefore taken from the crime system and are not comparable with that from other forces.

[6] Cleveland and Devon and Cornwall during 2005-06. Cumbria during 2006-07 and 2007-08, Derbyshire, North Yorkshire and South Wales from 2005-06 to 2007-08 were not able to provide these data.

[7] Dyfed-Powys were not able to provide consistent figures for the reporting period, and data for each year are therefore not comparable.

[8] Cumbria and North Yorkshire were not able to provide data for 2008-09.

[9] Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Hampshire and North Yorkshire were not able to provide data for 2009-10.

[10] Cheshire and Greater Manchester were not able to provide data for 2010-11.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department is taking to stop the sale of counterfeit cigarettes from tab houses; [69482]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to prevent the sale of counterfeit cigarettes from tab houses. [69522]

James Brokenshire: The sale and distribution of counterfeit items is a threat that the Government take seriously. The distribution of counterfeit tobacco carries serious health risks and the Government are working to tackle this threat, with the police and other enforcement agencies.

The North of England Tackling Illicit Tobacco for Better Health programme is a multi-agency partnership covering three Department of Health regions (North West, North East, and Yorkshire and Humber) where smoking rates are some of the highest in the country, and there are a number of major hot spots for illicit tobacco. The programme was launched in 2009 following a period of extensive research. Programme funding of £1 million over three years has been provided by the Department of Health and subsequent funding from Department of Health and primary care trusts from tobacco control budgets has allowed the programme to extend into other activities such as evaluation support.

The programme brings together regional public health, trading standards, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), local authorities and the police—all committed to reducing the supply and demand for illicit tobacco. The programme plan sets out the following eight key objectives:

Developing partnerships

Engaging health and community workers

Generating and sharing intelligence

Identifying informal markets and preventative action

Delivering enforcement

Marketing and communication

Working with business

Assessing progress

The North of England programme has enabled the HMRC to influence outside enforcement activity and improved join working with Trading Standards in tackling illicit tobacco at the local level. The HMRC/Trading Standards Joint Working Protocol has been updated to clarify responsibilities, develop data sharing practices and improve flows of intelligence for joint planning purposes to target illicit tobacco.

In addition the Intellectual Property Office Intelligence Hub manages the national Intellectual Property Crime Intelligence Database. The hub receives intellectual property crime intelligence from a number of sources, including industry anti-piracy and brand protection units, trading standards, police forces, HMRC, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This intelligence is fed into the Intellectual Property intelligence database, to help co-ordinate the response to the national threat of counterfeit products.

Third Sector

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation visited by Ministers in her Department since 12 May 2010. [67673]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: Ministers from the Home Department have visited the following charities and voluntary organisations as part of their ministerial roles:

Secretary of State (Mrs May)

Stonewall: June 2010
Still Human Here: July 2010 and March 2011
Relate: January 2011
Stalking Charities: January 2011
Stephen Lawrence Centre: February 2011
Fawcett Society: March 2011
Rape Crisis Centre: March 2011
Equality and Diversity Forum: March 2011
Age UK: March 2011
NR5 Futures Project based in Heartsease: March 2011

Damian Green

Refugee Council: June 2010
Refugee Action: June 2010
Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund: July 2010
Barnado's: February 2011

James Brokenshire

Action for Children: June 2010
Drugscope: July 2010
Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse: July 2010
Children's Charities Coalition on Internet Safety: July 2010
NSPCC: July 2010
Prince's Trust: July 2010
Childnet International: January 2011
NSPCC: March 2011
Twelves Company: March 2011
Laureus 'Sport for Good' event: March 2011
Chance UK: March 2011
Suzy Lamplugh Trust: March 2011
Horizon Kent: May 2011
Barnado's: April 2011
Horizon Kent: May 2011

Baroness Browning

Neighbourhood Watch launch event: June 2011
Turning Point: July 2011
King George's Hostel and Homeless Link: July 2011

Baroness Neville-Jones

Human Rights Watch: July 2010

Lynne Featherstone

Women's Aid: June 2010
Anawim—women's community project: November 2010
Selby Trust for social enterprise day: November 2010
Solace—women's refuge: December 2010
Actionaid: March 2011
Liberty: March 2011
Lesbian and Gay Foundation: March 2011
MASH—Manchester Action on Street Health: July 2011
RSPCA: July 2011
Womankind: July 2011

DEFENCE

Deepcut Barracks

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on bullying in the armed forces; and in what ways has that policy changed since the statement of the then Secretary of State for Defence of 27 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 201WH, on Deepcut Barracks. [72605]

Mr Robathan: Bullying and harassment are not tolerated in the armed forces. All service and civilian personnel, regardless of rank or grade, have a right to be treated with dignity. All MOD employees have a responsibility to do all they can to ensure that the working environment is free from all forms of bullying and harassment and that the dignity of others is respected. This is clearly laid down, along with the procedures to be followed if a complaint is made, in the Joint Service Publication 763.

The policy has not changed since April 2004. Its implementation has, however, been reinforced following criticism from the then Equal Opportunities Commission and recommendations made by Nicholas Blake QC in his review of the deaths at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut. We have, for example, reviewed equality and diversity training to ensure it is delivered to all levels of personnel, and ensured that sanctions are brought against those found culpable of bullying or harassment. In response to the Deepcut review, we established the post of Service Complaints Commissioner in the Armed Forces Act 2006.

The Commissioner provides an avenue for individuals to raise an allegation of bullying, harassment or improper behaviour, which the Commissioner can decide to refer to the chain of command for investigation, and about which the Commissioner must be kept updated. In addition, independent scrutiny of our training environment is now provided through inspections carried out by Ofsted.

Defence

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's brief for the Assistant Director of Information dated October 1998 D/DAO/14/3/5. [72725]

Dr Fox: I will write to the hon. Member.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much is projected to be saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from training efficiencies in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [71279]

Dr Fox: It is too early to provide an estimate of the projected savings accruing from training efficiencies as we continue to explore how best to prepare our armed forces to undertake the tasks that will be expected of them. We plan to introduce more modern and cost-effective methods of training and to deliver further efficiencies through estate rationalisation and improvements in the delivery of tri-service technical training. The Ministry of Defence will, however, provide the fullest possible information as progress is made.

Libya: Arms Trade

Mr Khalid Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what weapons *(a)* British companies and *(b)* the Government have sold to the National Transitional Council (NTC) of Libya; what (i) civil and (ii) military training the Government has provided to the NTC; and what the cost to the public purse was in each case. [70696]

Dr Fox: The Government have not sold weapons to the National Transitional Council (NTC) of Libya nor has it issued export licences to British companies for such sales. Therefore, there was no cost to the public purse.

However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, informed the House on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 61 and 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 66WS, that the Government intended to provide additional practical and material support to the NTC as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people. He confirmed the details of the equipment granted for use by the NTC and the civilian police force. Provision of this equipment is fully in line with UNSCRs 1970 and 1973 including the arms embargo.

The Government have not provided civil or military training to the NTC and, therefore, there was no cost to the public purse.

The UK has sent a small military mentoring team to Libya to enable the NTC to better protect civilians and civilian areas. This team has provided the NTC with mentoring on information handling, internal organisation and processes, logistics, communications and planning. A police adviser has also worked with the NTC but has not provided training.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel serving in Germany have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder; and how many of these are being treated *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in Germany; [72772]

(2) how many service personnel were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in each of the last three years; and how many service personnel have been discharged as a result of a diagnosis of PTSD in each of the last three years. [72773]

Mr Robathan: Defence Analysis Statistics and Advice (DASA) collate the results of initial psychiatric assessments of all patients who are referred to one of the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH). This information is necessarily provisional, as final diagnoses may be refined once patients have commenced their course of clinical treatment.

In the period 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2011, the earliest and latest dates for which verified information is available, 66 service personnel serving in Germany had been given an initial assessment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

As at 1 September 2011, out of those 66 personnel, six were currently receiving treatment for PTSD at one of the MOD's DCMHs in the UK, and 22 at one of those in Germany. The other 38 have completed their course of treatment and have been discharged from care.

The numbers given an initial medical assessment of PTSD in each of the last three years were 156 in 2008, 172 in 2009 and 249 in 2010. It should be noted that during this period, the MOD refined its methodology for recording mental health statistics. Up until 30 June 2009, only new referrals at DCMHs were recorded; from 1 July 2009, anyone re-referred following discharge from care was recorded again. This has resulted in an increase in recorded numbers from July 2009 onwards.

The following table shows the numbers of UK service personnel medically discharged from service with a principal condition of PTSD between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2010 by financial years.

	All	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Naval Service (including Royal Navy and Marines)	15	7	—	—
Army	79	21	32	26
RAF	5	—	—	—

Note:
To protect individual identities, and in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines, all numbers fewer than five have been suppressed and presented as '—'. Where there is only one number in a row or column that is fewer than five, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

The processes for administering a medical discharge differ between the three services and as a consequence the numbers have been presented by service rather than tri-service totals.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72697]

Robert Neill: The Department's travel management company, Redfern Travel Ltd, provide an online booking facility which allows staff to compare prices and modes/class of travel and source the best value when booking air or rail travel. Additionally, Redfern supply detailed management information that allows travel to be comprehensively monitored across the Department. The terms of the contract also require Redfern Travel Ltd to:

Provide and deliver the lowest price travel tickets possible within the UK and overseas and within the travellers requirement and the departmental travel policies.

Constantly source new routes and lower fares on existing routes.

Proactively advise the authority and the customers in methods on how to reduce air travel expenditure.

Additionally, there are no minimum commitments as this is a non-exclusive contract.

Requirements for air travel within the Department are minimal but there is clear guidance that first-class travel is not permitted. The travel management company must notify the Department's central procurement team for authorisation prior to booking first-class tickets. Furthermore, any expenditure on air travel outside of Europe for greater than £350 is also referred to the central procurement team for authorisation.

Staff source low cost tickets by searching available deals and rates. This is facilitated by Redfern having access to the Government Air Programme and ensuring the best available Government rates are available.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72562]

Robert Neill: The range of hourly rates paid were *(a)* £110 to £288 per hour to solicitors and *(b)* £45 to £220 per hour to barristers.

Departmental guidance requires that external solicitors and barristers are engaged after consultation with the legal director, and only for highly sensitive cases, cases which may lead to litigation or where the Department's expertise is limited. The barristers are engaged from a Panel of Counsel approved by the Attorney-General, and solicitors from the Office of Government Commerce approved suppliers, with few exceptions.

Details of all expenditure over £500 are published, each month, on the Departments website. Legal advice is coded under 'legal consultancy' and 'legal fees'.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/spenddata/

Local Development Frameworks

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the relative legal weight of local development frameworks and the national planning policy framework. [71878]

Greg Clark: The proposed abolition of regional strategies through the Localism Bill will increase the salience and importance of local plans; otherwise, the Localism Bill does not alter the legal status of councils' development plans.

The proposed changes to national planning guidance will strengthen the importance of local plans at the heart of decision-making.

Social Rented Housing: Chippenham

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in social housing are living in *(a)* underoccupied properties and (b) overcrowded conditions in (i) Chippenham constituency and (ii) England. [72827]

Grant Shapps: It is estimated that 423,000 households were under-occupying and 273,000 were living in overcrowded conditions in the social sector in England in 2009-10. This estimate is a three-year average based on data from the Survey of English Housing (2007-08) and the English Housing Survey (2008-09 and 2009-10). Under-occupying households are those with at least two bedrooms more than they need according to the Bedroom Standard and overcrowded households are those with one or more bedrooms fewer than they require.

It is not possible to provide estimates for individual constituencies as sample sizes are too small.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Finance

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment on the provision of bus services in *(a)* shire and *(b)* non-shire authorities following changes to the Formula Grant in April 2011; [72180]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of local authority decisions on funding for subsidised bus services on the provision of community transport. [72184]

Norman Baker: I am aware that, as a result of local decisions, in some areas of the country bus services are being reduced. The latest statistics on bus services can be found at the Department for Transport website and are updated periodically:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/buses/

Changes to bus and community transport services are a matter for bus operators and local transport authorities; the Government do not and cannot make an assessment of every individual change but are working with local transport authorities to get an overall picture.

The Government understand that community transport, which provides essential services for those unable to access conventional public transport, has a role to play in filling gaps left by the withdrawal of both commercial and supported bus services. This is why the Government announced a one-off funding package of £10.2 million for rural local authorities to kick-start and support community transport.

Staff Survey

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with what frequency his Department produces a staff survey; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the most recent such survey. [72808]

Norman Baker: The Department participates in the annual Civil Service People Survey. This is a single staff survey (managed by the Cabinet Office) measuring employee engagement across the entire civil service.

The Department's staff survey results for 2010 are available on its external website.

Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment for comparative purposes of the way public procurement tenders for transport-related projects are undertaken in other EU member states. [72400]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 10 October 2011]:* An assessment of public procurement tendering is being undertaken as part of the growth review. It is intended that the outcome of this assessment will be announced at the end of November.

Railways

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support he provides to local authorities seeking to introduce light railway systems. [72607]

Norman Baker: The Government recognise the many clear benefits of light rail and since May 2010 have supported a number of proposed extensions to existing light rail systems following approval of business cases. This includes £120 million for the Manchester Metrolink extensions to Ashton and to East Didsbury currently under construction. The Government have also announced their intention to support an extension to Midland Metro to Birmingham New Street Station and extensions to the Nottingham tram system subject to final approval. I also announced in March 2011 that the Department for Transport would be undertaking a tram-train pilot in South Yorkshire, which is now being progressed.

The Government do not provide direct support to local authorities for development work on light rail systems. It would be for the relevant authority to undertake any feasibility studies at its own cost before submission of a business case to the relevant funding authority. The Department has recently published a report on light rail with the aim of helping to make this mode more cost effective in the future. The report is available on the Department's website.

Railways: Contracts

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has assessed the effects of exchange rate movements on the costs of the contract for the *(a)* Intercity Express Programme and *(b)* Thameslink Rolling Stock since the announcement of the preferred bidder. [72784]

Mrs Villiers: The Department performs sensitivity analysis of exchange rate movements, and their repercussions on contract awards, on an ongoing basis. Moreover, the Department takes advice on a number of hedging strategies that could be implemented at the point of financial close to mitigate the risk of said movements.

Railways: Olympic Games 2012

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any proposals to change the availability of cheaper or advanced train fares around the period of the London 2012 Olympics. [71938]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* The setting of quota levels for advance fares is a commercial matter for train operators. There are therefore no DFT proposals to change the availability of cheaper or advanced purchase train fares during the Olympics.

However, train companies are offering special rail fares exclusive to Olympic and Paralympic event ticket holders. '2012 Games Train Tickets' are now available to buy.

Rescue Services

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the operational role of coastguards based in the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres would differ to that envisaged for coastguards employed in the Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres under the Government's revised proposals for the Coastguard Service. [69444]

Mike Penning: The proposals to modernise the Coastguard would broaden its formal role and responsibilities beyond civil maritime search and rescue, to encompass Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Counter Pollution operations. These additional functions would enable coastguards to develop improved awareness of the maritime domain and to identify and manage emerging risks to safety more proactively than at present.

Compared to existing roles in the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres, individual coastguards employed in the new network of Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres would acquire significantly broader and deeper skill sets in order to cope with increased workloads and greater levels of responsibility, and to operate with greater autonomy and accountability within the national search and rescue co-ordination network.

Further detail about the role of the coastguards under the Government's revised proposals can be found on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/concept_of_operations_doc

Thameslink: Consultants

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has assessed the risk of any potential conflict of interest in respect of consultants providing advice on Thameslink. [72786]

Mrs Villiers: It is the Department's policy to require all consultants and advisers to declare any possible conflicts of interest when offering their services on any particular contract or assignment. This requirement is set out in the contract terms issued to consultants and advisors when invited to bid for a contract.

Furthermore, bidders are advised that it is their ongoing responsibility to advise the Department of any change in circumstances which potentially could be viewed as a conflict of interest during the period of the contract.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Second Chamber

9. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he plans to take to achieve his objective of creating a second chamber reflective of the share of the vote secured by political parties at the last general election. [72863]

Mr Harper: For as long as the composition of the Other Place cannot be changed by election, any government has the right to ensure that its composition better reflects the views of the electorate—as was proposed in the Coalition programme for government.

West Lothian Question

10. **Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to establish the commission to consider the West Lothian question. [72864]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement that I made on 8 September 2011, *Official* Report, column 27WS. The Government will make a more detailed follow-up announcement soon, including details on the terms of reference and time-scale of the commission.

Party Funding

11. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent progress he has made on the reform of party funding; and if he will make a statement. [72865]

13. **Mike Crockart:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent progress he has made on the reform of party funding; and if he will make a statement. [72867]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to work to reform party funding. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is conducting a review into this area and the Government will consider its recommendations, alongside other relevant evidence, before taking this forward.

Parliamentary Constituencies

12. **John Stevenson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations he has received on proposals for reducing the number of parliamentary constituencies. [72866]

Mr Harper: The Government have received representations from parliamentarians, interest groups and members of the public on this issue. However, it is the responsibility of the independent Boundary Commissions to make proposals, and I would urge people to contribute to their consultations.

Trust in Politics

14. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had on restoring trust in politics. [72868]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have had a number of discussions with Cabinet colleagues and others about the Government's programme of constitutional and political reform which are designed to restore trust in politics.

Civil Disorder

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will conduct research into the numbers of those involved in the public disorder of August 2011 who were registered to vote. [72119]

Mr Harper: There are no plans to carry out such research. There are several pieces of research which have been commissioned about electoral registration to inform the move to Individual Electoral Registration (IER). We are funding the Electoral Commission this year to carry out a study into the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register which should be published before the end of the year. We have carried out a literature review to consider all the currently available evidence on registration, including which groups are most likely to be missing from the register such as young people or Black and Minority Ethnic groups. Further qualitative research will be carried out into these groups which will inform decisions on the transition to IER.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to increase the level of electoral registration of service personnel in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the rest of the UK. [72121]

Mr Harper: The Ministry of Defence recently published a report on Service Voter registration levels in 2010 and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. That report shows a positive trend and indicates that 75% of service personnel are registered to vote, up from 69% in 2009 and 60% in 2005.

We recognise that there is still work to be done and remain committed to making it as easy as possible for service personnel to register to vote, and to cast their vote. In Northern Ireland, Area Electoral Officers maintain regular contact with family liaison officers at the army barracks, encouraging service personnel and their families to register.

More generally, we are exploring a number of options for a one-time registration scheme for service personnel with the Ministry of Defence to consider how this might best work in practice. In addition, we have published draft legislative provisions to extend the electoral timetable for UK parliamentary elections from 17 to 25 working days, and will make a corresponding change for the by-elections timetable, to take effect in time for the next scheduled general election in 2015. These provisions will have particular benefits for service personnel stationed outside the UK as it will allow more time for the dispatch and return of postal votes to overseas locations.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what use has been made of free prize draws to improve electoral registration in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the rest of the UK. [72123]

Mr Harper: Quarterly free prize draws for all those added to the electoral register or those who notified the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland of a change in their details ran for three years in Northern Ireland—ending in March 2011. Information for the rest of the UK is not held. However, the Government are considering a number of ways to increase voter registration rates in the context of the move from household to Individual Electoral Registration. This includes conducting research with groups who have traditionally been under-registered to explore ways in which they may be encouraged to register.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what co-operation there has been between his Office, electoral registration officers and the devolved Administrations on foreign citizens who became British citizens for purposes of electoral registration. [72124]

Mr Harper: It is a matter solely for individual Electoral Registration Officers to determine whether an individual meets the nationality and other eligibility criteria for electoral registration. More generally, within the Cabinet Office the Electoral Registration Transformation Programme (ERTP) is working with a wide range of stakeholders including the Electoral Commission, Electoral Registration Officers and the Association of Electoral Administrators to improve electoral registration under the move to Individual Electoral Registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to extend the Pointer system from Northern Ireland to the rest of the UK for electoral registration purposes; and if he will make a statement. [72125]

Mr Harper: The Government have no plans to extend Pointer across the UK. Pointer is an address database providing a common standard address for every property in Northern Ireland. The National and one Scotland Address Gazetteers already collectively provide standard addresses for every property in England, Wales and Scotland and since 1 April 2008, all Electoral Registration Officers in England, Wales and Scotland have been required to maintain information held in their registers according to specified data standards.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what co-operation there has been between his Office, electoral registration officers and the Registrar General on adjustments to the electoral register to reflect *(a)* recent marriages and *(b)* recently deceased electors in (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) the rest of the UK. [72126]

Mr Harper: Electoral Registration Officers are under a duty, under section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, to maintain electoral registers. Pursuant to regulation 35 of the Representation of the People Act Regulations 2001, in fulfilling their registration duties, Electoral Registration Officers are authorised to inspect council records and any registrar of births and deaths.

In Northern Ireland, weekly lists of marriages, civil partnerships and deaths are collected from the Registrar General and circulated to area offices. Deceased persons are removed from the register and the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland write to those who have married or registered civil partnerships, enclosing registration forms, to facilitate registration and amendments to the register.

I have had no contact with the Registrar General on this issue. My officials are in regular contact with electoral administrators on matters relating to registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what co-operation there has been between his Office, electoral registration officers and *(a)* the owners of nursing homes, *(b)* local authority housing departments, *(c)* post-primary schools and further education colleges, *(d)* the Department for Work and Pensions and *(e)* the NHS on steps to improve electoral registration in (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) the rest of the UK. [72127]

Mr Harper: Within the Cabinet Office the Electoral Registration Transformation Programme (ERTP) is working with a wide range of stakeholders including individual Electoral Registration Officers and the Association of Electoral Administrators to improve electoral registration under the move to Individual Electoral Registration (IER). This is both within the context of policy development and data matching. Data matching pilot schemes match the electoral registers against various national databases to identify missing people and properties. The Department for Work and Pensions are also represented on the ERTP Board which oversees the programme.

In addition the ERTP is discussing with organisations that represent groups who have been traditionally under-registered or for whom IER may pose different challenges, such as those at 16 and 17 years old (attainers) and people with specific needs. A number of initiatives run by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland, including contacting nursing homes to facilitate registration of new residents, visits to post-primary schools, and information sharing with further education colleges, the Department for Work and Pensions and other agencies have successfully increased registration in Northern Ireland.

Electoral Register: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of *(a)* post-primary schools and *(b)* further education colleges were visited by electoral registration officers for the purpose of improving electoral registration in (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) the rest of the UK in 2010-11. [72122]

Mr Harper: I am informed by the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland that in Northern Ireland 100% of post primary schools with more than 10 pupils in the 16 to 17 age range are visited by electoral administrators. All pupils in further education colleges who are not already registered are contacted by letter enclosing a registration form. The Government do not hold the requested information for the rest of the UK.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare: Doctors

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 671W, on Atos Healthcare: doctors, if he will meet Atos Healthcare to discuss their employees' registration with the General Medical Council. [72346]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Rutherglen and Hamilton West (Tom Greatrex) on 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 671-72W.

Atos Healthcare: Manpower

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 681W, on Atos Healthcare: manpower, whether approved healthcare professionals carrying out work capability assessments who are under investigation by the General Medical Council for misconduct other than professional misconduct may continue to carry out work capability assessments whilst being investigated. [72713]

Chris Grayling: The General Medical Council and Atos Healthcare do not differentiate between professional and other misconduct.

The term "professional misconduct" in the previous response refers to cases that the GMC considers require investigation into potentially serious concerns (Stream 1 referrals).

It should be noted, however, that there are many cases (for Atos it is the majority) where the General Medical Council would not consider that the allegations, even if proven, would require them to take formal action. They refer these cases to the doctor's employer or contracting body so that they can consider what action, if any, they should take (Stream 2 referrals).

Child: Maintenance

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions there have been for failure to make payments to the Child Support Agency of non-resident parents of children residing in Pendle constituency. [71777]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many successful prosecutions there have been for failure to make payments to the Child Support Agency of non-resident parents of children residing in Pendle constituency. [71777]

Failure to pay child maintenance is not a criminal offence, so parents can not be prosecuted. However, where a non-resident parent fails to pay maintenance, there are a number of enforcement actions available. Money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's earnings if the non-resident parent is employed, money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's bank or building society account, or action can be taken to recover money through the courts.

The most serious forms of enforcement are commitment to prison or disqualification from driving. The decision whether to impose these, and the length of any order made, is at the discretion of a Magistrates' Court (or Sheriff in Scotland) where they are satisfied that a non-resident parent has "wilfully refused or culpably neglected" to pay child maintenance—but these are not criminal sanctions.

Page 23 of the June 2011 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), available at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0611.html

and in the House of Commons library shows enforcement actions carried out by the Child Support Agency. It is not possible to break down these figures specifically for those non-resident parents who have failed to pay maintenance for children residing in Pendle.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72680]

Chris Grayling: The DWP contract with a booking agent Expotel Hotel Reservations Ltd for the provision of air, rail, ferry and hotels.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72711]

Chris Grayling: The DWP has a business travel policy and uses the services of a travel management company (TMC) to ensure best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets.

The TMC contract was sourced from Government Procurement Service (GPS) Travel Management Service Provision framework, which was let compliant with the public contracting regulations and EU procurement directives. This framework offers the most cost-effective travel management services available to central Government. The DWP is contracted with Expotel Hotel Reservations Ltd who access the airlines' global distribution system (GDS) and low cost carriers on our behalf.

The Department also complies with the Government Air Programme (GAP) which is a discount framework agreement, launched on 1 August 2009 by the GPS on behalf of central Government. The TMC uses the Government Air Programme appropriately whenever it is most economical to do so.

Departmental policy is that staff must always consider use of video conferencing where appropriate or travelling by rail rather than air and this has resulted in a 67.4% reduction in ticket purchases since 2009-10.

To facilitate further reductions in air travel, policy now restricts air travel for flights within the British mainland to journeys of over 300 miles. Journeys under this limit require the use of an alternative mode of travel, to limit the Departments' carbon emissions.

It should also be noted that the Department has achieved a 40% reduction in spend on travel in the last year and the Department continuously reviews policies and processes with a view to driving out further efficiencies. For example, the Department has introduced a ban on first-class rail travel.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72499]

Chris Grayling: No specific resource budget allocation was made in any of the last five years.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72500]

Chris Grayling: Dr Bill Gunnyeon has been joint chief medical adviser and chief scientist of DWP since 1 June 2005. The greater part of his time is spent on his duties as chief medical adviser. It is therefore not possible to define the salary, including benefits, for the science component of his post.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72501]

Chris Grayling: The office was established in 2003. Only part of one post has ever been allocated to support the DWP chief scientific adviser.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72502]

Chris Grayling: All but two of the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies have no reason to commission or seek scientific advice and evidence; the two which do are the Health and Safety Executive and the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council. The Health and Safety Commission, and more recently the HSE Board and Chief Executive, are responsible for the issues listed in *(a)*, as set out in the DWP/HSE framework document at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/howwework/management/dwphse.pdf

HSE policy is set out at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/policy.htm

showing their implementation of the Government Chief Scientific Adviser's Guidelines 2010. Research into scientific evidence for the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council is procured by DWP. DWP's research policies apply to such research, as set out at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/Ts_and_Cs_June_2011.pdf

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72578]

Chris Grayling: DWP's in-house legal services are the first point of contact for all legal requirements within the Department. All requests are considered in relation to the Attorney-General's guidance on the use of external legal services and the GLS procurement of legal services protocol. A decision is then taken by the in-house team as to whether the legal service required should be delivered in-house or by an external contracted legal services provider.

DWP engages solicitors or barristers in three distinct areas for which it has different guidance and rates of pay:

Prosecutions:

DWP's prosecutions are undertaken by agent solicitors or barristers in the magistrates courts. We do not have hourly rates, but rather use rates as set out in the following table:

Number of cases	*London rates (£)*	*National rates (£)*
Single case	100.00	75.00
Two cases in the same court on the same day	125.00	125.00

Three or more cases in the same court on the same day attracts a flat rate as follows:

	London rates (£)	*National rates (£)*
For half a day	175.00	175.00
For whole day	260.00	260.00

We may agree a small uplift in scale rates if the number of cases listed in the same court, on the same day, exceeds 20.

For work in the Crown court, rates are paid in accordance with the Attorney-General's Graduated Fee Scheme for Prosecutors.

Civil Litigation:

DWP only instructs counsel from the Attorney-General's Panel Counsel list for which the rates in 2010-11 are set out in the following table:

Panel	*Rate per hour (£)*
A	120
B	100
C	[1]60
	[2]80

[1] Under five years call

[2] Over five years call

If Counsel is required from outside the Attorney-General's Panel Counsel list, permission and a nomination is sought from the Attorney-General's Office.

External Solicitors:

DWP has procured a range of call-off contracts for which the rates are set out as follows:

DWP legal services average supplier rates 2010-11

£ per hour

Supplier	*Trainee/paralegal*	*0-2 years*	*3-5 years*	*6-10 years*	*Partner*	*Average (across grades)*
Average costs across all suppliers	95	140	162	182	201	156

A full list and the sums paid on each case could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants entered the Work programme in each contract package area in each of the eight payment groups in each (i) week and (ii) month from 1 June 2011 to 8 September 2011; [72801]

(2) how many *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants entered the Work programme in each contract package area in each (i) week and (ii) month from 1 June 2011 to 8 September 2011; [72802]

(3) what the caseload was of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants on the Work programme in each contract package area (i) in total and (ii) in each of the eight payment groups in each (A) week and (B) month from 1 June 2011 to 8 September 2011; [72803]

(4) how many job starts were registered on the Work programme in each contract package area for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants (i) in total and (ii) in each of the eight payment groups in each (A) week and (B) month from 1 June 2011 to 8 September 2011; [72804]

(5) how many job outcome payments were made to providers in each contract package area in respect of employment and support allowance claimants on the work programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the eight payment groups in each (i) week and (ii) month from 1 June 2011 to 8 September 2011. [72805]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme was launched in June 2011, to deliver sustained employment that can change people's lives; providers have longer than ever before to make a difference.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity.

Statistics on referrals and attachments to the Work programme will be published from spring 2012 and Job outcome data will be published from autumn 2012. The Department's publication strategy for Work Programme statistics was placed in the House of Commons library and is also available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp

Industrial Health and Safety: Prosecutions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1173W, on industrial health and safety: construction, in which employment sectors the duty holders who were prosecuted for health and safety offences operated in each year. [72774]

Chris Grayling: From 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011, the Health and Safety Executive completed 453 prosecutions of duty holders employing fewer than 10 employees outside the construction sector. The sector distribution of these prosecutions is given in the following table:

Duty holders employing fewer than 10 employees (including those with no employees) outside the construction sector prosecuted

Number

	Sector			
Work year (1 April to 31 March)	*Agriculture*	*Extractive/utilities*	*Manufacturing*	*Services*
2006-07	24	5	52	42
2007-08	9	2	38	33
2008-09	8	1	21	54
2009-10	10	3	21	52
2010-11	10	1	29	38

Note: The above 2010-11 figure is based on current information in advance of the release of official statistics for this year in October 2011.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the amount which will be paid in jobseeker's allowance in England in the next *(a)* 12, *(b)* 24 and *(c)* 36 months. [72339]

Chris Grayling: The available information is in the following table. Forecasts are produced only for Great Britain, and for financial years.

Jobseeker's allowance expenditure forecasts

Great Britain	*2011-12 Forecast*	*2012-13 Forecast*	*2013-14 Forecast*	*2014-15 Forecast*
£ million, nominal terms	4,831	4,971	4,676	4,365
£ million, (2011-12 prices)	4,831	4,850	4,442	4,037

Notes:
1. Forecasts are those underpinning the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook, published alongside the March 2011 Budget, and are consistent with the claimant unemployment assumption published by in that document.
2. Forecasts are as published on the DWP website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure
Source:
Budget 2011 forecasts.

Jobseeker's Allowance: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people under the age of 24 who will have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months by 2013 in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough. [72337]

Chris Grayling: The Department has made no such estimates.

Means-tested Benefits

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who are transitioning from contributory to means-tested benefits were ineligible because of the earnings or savings of a spouse, partner, or civil partner in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how many applications for benefits were refused because of the earnings or savings of a spouse, partner, or civil partner in the most recent year for which figures are available. [72760]

Chris Grayling: Unfortunately, the information requested is not available as data on reason for claim closure or refusal are not centrally collated.

Personal Pensions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to tackle recent reductions in personal pension contributions and their likely effects on the prosperity of future pensioners. [72590]

Steve Webb: The Government wants to help individuals by having a stable economy with sustained and balanced growth, which is why we are taking action to tackle the deficit and support business in creating jobs. The Government's Growth Review will continue for the rest of this Parliament, providing ongoing focus on what the Government can do to support growth.

We believe that pension provision is important and that is why we are introducing workplace pension reform. Automatic enrolment will be introduced from 2012 requiring all employers to enrol eligible workers into workplace pension saving and to make an employer contribution. It is for employers to choose the type of scheme they want to use to meet their employer duties and this could be a personal pension arrangement.

The aim of automatic enrolment is to encourage people to start saving, continue saving and save for longer to meet their retirement needs. As a result of automatic enrolment we expect there to be around five to eight million people newly saving or saving more in all forms of workplace pension scheme.

Automatic enrolment is widely recognised as the best way to overcome people's savings inertia—rather than having to make an active decision to save in a workplace pension, an employee has to make an active decision not to save. Even where an individual opts out, the employer is required to re-enrol them every three years, encouraging individuals to rethink about the need to save for their retirement.

A programme of communications and information is being designed to help people understand the need to save to meet their aspirations for retirement, build awareness of the changes and support a behavioural shift amongst working age people so that saving in a pension becomes the norm.

And for future pensioners the Government are looking at reforming the state pension system which would be simple, easy to understand, efficient to deliver, affordable—providing a firm foundation for workplace saving.

Pensions: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average monetary value of benefits provided by his Department was to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in York in respect of (i) NHS Services, (ii) social services, (iii) travel concessions, (iv) television licences, (v) insulation and home repairs and improvements grants and (vi) other services in each year since 2003-04; [71438]

(2) with reference to the answer of 25 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 419-21W, on pensioners: social security benefits, what the average monetary value of benefits in kind provided to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in York in respect of (i) NHS services, (ii) social service, (iii) travel concessions, (iv) television licences, (v) insulation and home repairs and improvement grants and (vi) other services has been for the period later than those given in that answer for which information is available. [71440]

Steve Webb: A wide range of services and benefits in kind are available to older people and these are administered both centrally and locally by a number of Government Departments. As a result, the information is not available in the format requested: some information is not collected and some could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information which is available is given as follows.

(i) NHS services

People aged 60 and over are able to claim free prescriptions and eye tests on the grounds of age. Detailed information on prescription charges is not held in the format requested.

Free NHS sight tests were made available to people aged 60 and over from 1 April 1999. Information on the average value of NHS sight tests provided to people aged 60 and over within the area of the former York and Selby PCT is only available on a consistent basis for the three years 2003-04 to 2005-06 and is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged 60 and over*	*Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged 60 and over (£)*
2003-04	26,254	453,144
2004-05	26,619	474,351
2005-06	25,057	460,798

PCTs were restructured in October 2006 and no equivalent data for 2006-07 are available. Information for 2007-08 to 2010-11 is available for the North Yorkshire and York PCT area and is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged 60 and over*	*Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged 60 and over(£)*
2007-08	88,428	1,708,429
2008-09	90,380	1,789,524
2009-10	89,805	1,819,449
2010-11	88,324	1,828,307

There is no automatic entitlement for pensioners to NHS optical vouchers or free dental treatment. Individuals may qualify for these benefits if they are in receipt of certain qualifying benefits, or if they have been assessed as eligible for assistance under the NHS Low Income Scheme. Information on the value of such NHS services provided to patients of pensionable age who qualify on the basis of their personal economic circumstances is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(ii) Social services

The following table shows the gross current expenditure by York council on social services for people aged 65 or over from 2003-04 to 2009-10.

Gross current expenditure[1] by York council on older people (aged 65 or over)

Year (1 April to 31 March)	*Gross current expenditure (£000)*
2003-04[2]	21,900
2004-05	25,600
2005-06	27,500
2006-07	27,600

Gross current expenditure[1] by York council on older people (aged 65 or over)

Year (1 April to 31 March)	*Gross current expenditure (£000)*
2007-08	27,600
2008-09	30,800
2009-10	32,439

[1] Gross expenditure includes income from client contributions, but excludes capital charges and certain income items which count as expenditure elsewhere in the public sector, such as contributions from primary care trusts. This is to avoid double counting within the aggregate public sector accounts of the money involved.

[2] From 2003-04, additional funding was made available to CSSRs via the Supporting People grant.

Source:

R03 and PSS EX1 returns

(iii) Travel concessions

The statutory minimum travel concession, introduced in April 2008, gives those of pensionable aged and eligible disabled people free off-peak local bus travel in any part of England. The Government provide around £1 billion a year to fund the concession.

Travel concession schemes are provided through local authorities, which have flexibility to enhance their schemes to offer more than the statutory minimum, so there are local variations in what is offered and take-up of concessionary travel also varies from one area to another. Therefore it is not possible to quantify the value of the benefit in kind in a specific local authority area.

(iv) Television licences

Free television licences for people aged 75 or over were introduced in November 2000. TV Licensing, who administer free licences as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of licences issued. However, figures, shown in the table below, are available for the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over receiving winter fuel payments in York local authority. No equivalent data for 2003-04 are available. These people would be eligible for a free television licence.

York local authority area

		TV licences fees (£)	
	Number of households with someone aged 75 or over	*Colour*	*Black and white*
2004-05	11,685	121.00	40.50
2005-06	11,930	126.50	42.00
2006-07	12,070	131.50	44.00
2007-08	12,240	135.50	45.50
2008-09	12,180	139.50	47.00
2009-10	12,290	142.50	48.00

(v) Insulation

The Warm Front scheme is one of the Government's key programme for tackling fuel poverty in vulnerable households in the private sector in England. Warm Front provides grants for heating, insulation and energy efficiency measures. The following table displays the number of pensioner households that have received Warm Front assistance in the York local authority area since 2003, and the average spend on each of those households.

	Number of single pensioner households assisted in York	*Average spend per single pensioner household assisted (£)*	*Number of two pensioners households assisted in York*	*Average spend per two pensioner household assisted (£)*
2003-04	82	748.75	21	1,701.06
2004-05	87	693.71	22	1,596.59
2005-06	199	778.45	102	765.08
2006-07	364	753.92	252	657.25
2007-08	390	1,020.33	297	998.20
2008-09	199	1,741.24	155	1,612.50
2009-10	142	1,639.09	103	1,542.74
2010-11	96	1,425.91	70	1,617.70

In addition, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), an obligation on energy suppliers to deliver carbon savings in the household sector, is the primary existing driver of household energy saving measures—especially insulation. To ensure an equitable distribution of the benefits, the scheme requires a proportion of the carbon savings be achieved in the homes of 'priority' lower income households (aged 70 and over or on certain means tested benefits). In the first two years of the scheme, between April 2008 and March 2010, 3,861 Priority Group households in York benefited from subsidised loft and/or cavity wall insulation under the scheme. CERT runs to December 2012.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional cost of welfare benefits attributable to the rise in unemployment announced on 14 September 2011. [72769]

Chris Grayling: No such estimate has been made.

The effects of recent changes in unemployment will be incorporated into the next Economic and Fiscal Outlook to be published by the Office for Budget Responsibility on 29 November.

Stress

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to mark National Stress Awareness day. [72814]

Chris Grayling: DWP will mark National Stress Awareness day with internal intranet communications to highlight the support which is available within the Department to help employees and managers prevent, and deal with, stress.

This support includes:

The Department's Employee Assistance Programme which provides employees and managers with a range of support services including:

a 24-hour helpline

information and counselling

workshops and awareness on

preventing pressure becoming stress

developing strategies to cope with change

building resilience.

The DWP 'live well work well' well-being programme which provides employees with a wealth of on-site and online help and advice on identifying, and practical ways to reduce, stress.

The occupational health service which provides professional clinical advice to help employees manage their condition better at work or to return to work from sick leave.

Unemployment: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Warrington *(a)* under the age of 24 and *(b)* over the age of 50 have been unemployed for more than 12 months. [72658]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Warrington (a) under the age of 24 and (b) over the age of 50 have been unemployed for more than 12 months. (72658)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested duration and geography are not available due to a small sample size. As an alternative we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.

There were 35 people aged 16-24 and 105 people aged 50 plus resident in Warrington in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance for over 12 months in August 2011. These estimates are rounded to the nearest 5.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Unemployment: Young People

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to provide *(a)* training and *(b)* employment opportunities for young people who have been unemployed for more than six months in the West Midlands. [72338]

Chris Grayling: We are supporting young people into work by investing in flexible, personalised employment support, apprenticeships, work experience and training.

Jobcentre Plus advisers are now empowered to decide when and how to support claimants using a comprehensive menu of help including skills provision and job search support. The aim is to give individuals the right support at the right time rather than delivering set interventions at set times as in the past. District Managers have the flexibility to put in place the support appropriate to the local circumstances and needs of the unemployed young people in the West Midlands.

Work experience and apprenticeships are central to improving the prospects of young unemployed people across the country. This Government will deliver at least 250,000 more apprenticeships over the spending review period than the previous Government had planned and is funding 100,000 work placements over the next two years. Work Experience offers young people a placement with a local business for a period of two to eight weeks. Placements may be extended by up to four weeks where an employer offers the individual an apprenticeship and that offer is accepted. This extension will be one of the routes that will help to maximise the number of young people moving off benefits into the 40,000 extra apprenticeships, targeted at unemployed young people, that were announced in the Budget.

Sector-based work academies are being set up to offer pre-employment training, work placements and a guaranteed interview in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies. They are available to people of all ages but will be particularly beneficial to young people.

We also have in place the Work programme for people who need further help to move into employment. Work programme providers will have complete flexibility to innovate and design support based on individual and local needs rather than having to follow a one-size-fits all approach. Young people aged between 18 and 24 years have priority access after nine months, however the most disadvantaged young people may enter even earlier after three months of unemployment.

Universal Credit: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of universal credit on women living in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency. [72742]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for the impact of universal credit at a constituency level.

The Department for Work and Pensions has published an equality impact assessment which assesses the impact of universal credit, as a whole, on women. This is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/universal-credit-equality-impact-assessment.pdf

Work Capability Assessment: Atos Healthcare

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Atos approved health care professionals responsible for carrying out work capability assessments have been dismissed after being found guilty by the General Medical Council of *(a)* professional misconduct and *(b)* misconduct other than professional misconduct in the last year. [72712]

Chris Grayling: In the last year, one Atos approved doctor's contract was terminated by Atos for misconduct following a GMC investigation which placed conditions on the doctor's registration.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Atos approved healthcare professionals carrying out work capability assessments are under investigation by the General Medical Council for *(a)* professional misconduct and *(b)* misconduct other than professional misconduct. [72714]

Chris Grayling: There are no doctors currently carrying out work capability assessments who are under investigation by the GMC.

Work Capability Assessment: Health Professions

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what minimum qualifications are required of approved healthcare professionals undertaking work capability assessments. [72283]

Chris Grayling: Doctors must be registered with the General Medical Council; nurses with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and physiotherapists with the Health Professions Council. All Healthcare Professionals must have three years broad-based clinical post-registration experience and achieve approval (post training) from the DWP chief medical adviser before undertaking work capability assessments.

Work Capability Assessment: Illnesses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 681W, and to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 856W, on work capability assessment: illnesses, whether in circumstances where insufficient information is available and an ESA50 form is sent to a claimant with a terminal illness, the special employment and support allowance rules prevent a person with a terminal illness receiving an ESA50; and what account he took of the possibility of a terminally ill person receiving an ESA50 form due to insufficient information when taking the decision not to modify the ESA50 questionnaire to include specific questions about terminal illness. [72657]

Chris Grayling: Individuals who are diagnosed with a progressive disease, where death is a likely consequence of that disease and where this is reasonably expected within six months, will be treated as having limited capability for work and limited capability for work related activity, and as such they are placed in the Support group of employment and support allowance (ESA) with the additional support which that entails.

Where an individual advises the Department, as part of their claim to ESA that they are terminally ill and wish to be considered under the ESA special rules, an ESA50 form will not be issued. This is unless upon receipt of further medical evidence from the individual's chosen healthcare professional or consultant terminal illness as defined, cannot be confirmed via paper based evidence. In these unusual circumstances, the individual would receive an ESA50 questionnaire and usually be invited to attend a face to face assessment.

The ESA50 was developed and designed in consultation with medical experts and groups representing disabled people. Workshops were also held with service users to get their views and suggestions on the questionnaire. Their comments were taken into account in the development of the form, as were those of the social security advisory committee.

We are committed to continuously improving the WCA to ensure that it is as fair and accurate as possible. As part of this the ESA50 is also regularly reviewed and refined.

EDUCATION

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has received representations on the *(a)* appropriateness, *(b)* ethics and *(c)* legality of the use of the mosquito device; and if he will make a statement. [69561]

Sarah Teather: The mosquito device has been criticised by a number of children's rights organisations on the grounds that it infringes children's right to peaceful assembly. In October 2008, within its concluding observations on the UK's implementation of UNCRC, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child asked the UK Government to

> "reconsider the use of mosquito devices insofar as they may violate the rights of children to freedom of movement and peaceful assembly".

In June 2010, the Council of Europe recommended that Governments and local authorities in member states ban the mosquito device. There has been no case taken to the European Court of Human Rights regarding the mosquito device, and none that have cited the Human Rights Act in the UK. Ministerial colleagues and I have made clear our opposition to the mosquito devices being used to discriminate against children and young people.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the Answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 593W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme, if he will estimate the total cost to the public purse to date of the cancellation of Building Schools for the Future funding, including costs to local authorities of legal fees and contractual liabilities for cancellation of work already under way. [71647]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education, has no plans to estimate the cost of cancelling the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

However, a review of each scheme's costs by the relevant local authorities and indexation savings has yielded £500 million in savings. Further efficiencies are being sought by applying new ways of delivering this investment that will maximise value for money, as set out in Sebastian James's review of schools capital. The benefits of this innovative approach to driving out greater efficiencies is already evident in the Campsmount project in Doncaster, which is being built at significantly lower cost than BSF schemes of the same size.

Computer Programming

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the national curriculum in teaching computer programming. [71965]

Mr Gibb: Elements of computer programming can be taught within Information and Communications Technology (ICT) which is currently a compulsory subject within the national curriculum at key stages 1-4.

The Department is conducting a comprehensive review of the existing national curriculum. This review included a call for evidence to which stakeholders and the public were invited to contribute their views about curriculum subjects, including ICT. We received nearly 5,800 responses, including many from representatives of industry and commerce, and these are currently being analysed.

Computer Science

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to *(a)* make computer science a core subject in the curriculum and *(b)* adapt the curriculum in respect of digital and high technology subjects. [71966]

Mr Gibb: We are currently reviewing the national curriculum to focus it on the essential body of knowledge in key subjects which all children need to learn in order to succeed in education and in life, and to give teachers greater flexibility beyond that to design and teach a curriculum which best meets the needs of their pupils.

We have confirmed that English, mathematics, science and physical education will remain compulsory at all four key stages within the national curriculum. We are currently considering which of the other subjects that are currently part of the national curriculum, including information and communication technology, should remain so in future, and intend to announce proposals in the new year.

Free Schools

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many free school applications have been rejected on the grounds of the extreme views of the sponsors. [72269]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not publish details of unsuccessful applications.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff there are in his Department carrying out checks on the suitability of free school sponsors. [72270]

Mr Gibb: Three members of staff work exclusively on carrying out due diligence checks on the suitability of those who have applied to establish free schools. A further 8.6 full-time equivalent members of staff are involved in assessing the suitability of free school proposers alongside other responsibilities. The Department is also able to draw on other sources of expertise, including the police and other agencies, in order to ensure the suitability of people to set up and operate free schools.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on the establishment of free schools. [72318]

Mr Gibb: Current estimates are that the total capital costs for the 24 free schools opening in 2011 will range from £110 million to £130 million. The Department will publish the full financial information for approved free schools once final costs have been agreed.

International Baccalaureate: Dorset

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* Bournemouth, *(b)* Dorset and *(c)* England offer the International Baccalaureate. [72613]

Mr Gibb: We do not hold information on the number of schools which offer the International Baccalaureate to their students. In the 2009/10 academic year, there were no schools in Bournemouth which entered post-16 pupils for the International Baccalaureate; three schools in Dorset entered post-16 pupils for the International Baccalaureate (one voluntary-aided school and two independent schools); 131 schools and Further Education colleges in England entered post-16 pupils for the International Baccalaureate. Information on 2010/11 academic year entries for the International Baccalaureate will be available in October.

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will place in the Library copies of all correspondence between *(a)* his Department and the New Schools Network and *(b)* his Department and other bodies concerning the New Schools Network; [70499]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of resources awarded to the New Schools Network since May 2010; [70500]

(3) whether his Department has awarded funding to the New Schools Network since 31 July 2011. [70501]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education, has no plans to publish copies of all correspondence relating to the New Schools Network (NSN) beyond what has already been published. On 18 June 2010 the Department agreed to enter into a grant agreement with NSN; the agreement was formally signed on 8 November 2010. No payments have been made after 31 July 2011.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what conditions were attached to the grant from his Department to the New Schools Network in respect of performance indicators; [70743]

(2) to which events his Department has invited representatives of the New Schools Network since May 2010; [70744]

(3) what meetings with civil servants in his Department Dominic Cummings attended whilst receiving payment from the New Schools Network; [70746]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between his Department and the New Schools Network since May 2010; [70747]

(5) what conditions were attached to the grant awarded to the New Schools Network by his Department in July 2010; and what assessment criteria were in place to measure compliance with these conditions; [70748]

(6) what feedback his Department has received from potential providers of free schools on the service the New Schools Network provides under its agreement with his Department; [70749]

(7) what requirements his Department has placed upon the New Schools Network to report on its activities in relation to the grant it receives from his Department; [70750]

(8) if he will place in the Library a copy of the grant agreement reached between his Department and the New Schools Network in November 2010. [70751]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education, currently has no plans to publish every item of correspondence, or the grant agreement, between the Department for Education and the New Schools Network (NSN). The agreement contains standard conditions covering the grant only being used for the purposes it was given; financial management including audited accounts, costed plans and budgets; due regard to the Compact with the third sector; and conflicts of interest.

Officials have been in regular contact with NSN throughout the grant period, discussing performance in all areas of NSN's remit under the terms of the grant. A more formal discussion took place in the spring during which officials and NSN assessed delivery against the key performance indicators published in the Department's letter to the NSN of 18 June 2010 and a similar discussion will take place later this month.

Representatives of NSN have been invited to a number of meetings and events since last summer. Dominic Cummings attended some meetings as part of the NSN representative group prior to his employment as a special adviser but the Department does not hold any details about his financial arrangements with NSN.

The Department has received positive feedback about the NSN from free school proposers, in relation to both the quality and timeliness of the service it provides.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children received free school meals in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011. [72394]

Mr Gibb: The available information on the number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the tables.

Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2] known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, January each year

Ashfield constituency

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[3, 4]			*State-funded secondary schools[3, 5]*			*Special schools[6]*		
	Number on roll	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2008	7,466	1,328	17.8	5,853	855	14.6	113	37	32.7
2009	7,325	1,430	19.5	5,685	868	15.3	114	36	31.6
2010	7,275	1,576	21.7	5,604	895	16.0	119	38	31.9
2011	7,246	1,651	22.8	5,517	916	16.6	125	40	32.0

	Pupil referral units[7]			*Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[3, 4], state-funded secondary[3, 5], special schools[6] and pupil referral units[7]*		
	Number on roll	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2008	—	—	—	13,430	2,220	16.5
2009	—	—	—	13,125	2,335	17.8
2010	0	0	0.0	13,000	2,510	19.3

	Pupil referral units[7]			Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[3, 4], state-funded secondary[3, 5], special schools[6] and pupil referral units[7]		
	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
2011	0	0	0.0	12,890	2,605	20.2

Nottinghamshire local authority area

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[3, 4]			State-funded secondary schools[3, 5]			Special schools[6]		
	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
2008	56,679	7,092	12.5	46,087	5,316	11.5	705	196	27.8
2009	56,351	7,569	13.4	45,101	5,571	12.4	693	191	27.6
2010	56,012	8,204	14.6	44,219	5,632	12.7	697	197	28.3
2011	56,352	8,720	15.5	43,197	5,553	12.9	702	199	28.3

	Pupil referral units[7]			Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[3, 4], state-funded secondary[3, 5], special schools[6] and pupil referral units[7]		
	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
2008	—	—	—	103,470	12,605	12.2
2009	—	—	—	102,145	13,330	13.1
2010	176	59	33.5	101,105	14,090	13.9
2011	154	63	40.9	100,405	14,535	14.5

England

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[3, 4]			State-funded secondary schools[3, 5]			Special schools[6]		
	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
2008	3,837,680	637,170	16.6	2,913,725	413,365	14.2	78,265	25,705	32.8
2009	3,825,475	652,305	17.1	2,883,245	417,970	14.5	78,030	26,245	33.6
2010	3,838,680	711,405	18.5	2,864,345	441,145	15.4	78,335	27,325	34.9
2011	3,873,175	743,255	19.2	2,837,825	450,275	15.9	79,030	28,830	36.5

	Pupil referral units[7]			Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[3, 4], state-funded secondary[3, 5], special schools[6] and pupil referral units[7]		
	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
2008	—	—	—	6,829,670	1,076,240	15.8
2009	—	—	—	6,786,750	1,096,525	16.2
2010	15,140	5,050	33.3	6,796,500	1,184,920	17.4
2011	13,725	4,745	34.6	6,803,755	1,227,110	18.0

[1] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations. In pupil referral units also includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

[2] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15 (age as at 31 August).

[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[4] Includes primary academies.

[5] Includes city technology colleges and academies, including all through academies.

[6] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[7] Comparable information for pupil referral units is not available prior to 2010 (when the collection became pupil-level).

Note:

National numbers and totals across school categories have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

School Census.

The latest information, for January 2011, on free school meal eligibility and other school and pupil information can be found in the "Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2011" Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Schools: Admissions

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which individuals and organisations *(a)* he and *(b)* the Schools Minister has met to discuss the Draft Code on Admissions since its publication. [72265]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education, and I have met a significant number of groups and individuals to discuss a range of topics during the period of the consultation. While a number of these groups would have raised admissions in the margins of those meetings, there were no meetings specifically to discuss just the admissions and appeals codes. A full list of consultation respondents will be published in due course.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish the new Schools Admissions Code. [72266]

Mr Gibb: The consultation closed on 19 August and we received a significant number of responses, particularly from parents. We are now finalising the draft School Admissions and Appeals Codes, taking account of the results of the consultation and the views expressed. It remains our intention to bring the new Codes into force in early 2012 in time for the September 2013 intake process. We shall publish a revised draft, as soon as possible, to assist schools and local authorities that are their own admission authorities develop their local arrangements in good time. Until the new Codes are brought into force, all admission authorities must comply with the existing Codes.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of the respondents to his Department's consultation on the Admissions Code were *(a)* in favour and *(b)* not in favour of offering priority to the children of school staff for admission to the relevant school. [72267]

Mr Gibb: The consultation closed on 19 August and we received a significant number of responses, particularly from parents. We are now finalising the draft School Admission and Appeals Codes, taking account of the results of the consultation and the views expressed. We shall publish a revised draft set of codes, as soon as possible, to assist schools and local authorities that are their own admission authorities, to develop their local arrangements in good time. Alongside the revised draft codes, we intend to publish a detailed breakdown of the consultation, including the information requested on children of staff, together with our response to the consultation. Until the new codes are brought into force, all admission authorities must comply with the existing codes.

Teachers: Pensions

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department last received a valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme. [72411]

Mr Gibb: The latest valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme was published in November 2006. This was the Actuarial review of the scheme as at 31 March 2004.

CABINET OFFICE

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72696]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is committed to minimising travel costs and reducing our carbon footprint. In order to take advantage of the best rates Cabinet Office has entered into a Buying Solutions framework contract with Carlson Wagonlit (CWT).

From 2012 we will be moving to the new Government Procurement Service contract.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72441]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is committed to handling science and engineering advice in accordance with the Government Chief Scientific Adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making".

Employment: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the number of jobs which were created in Scotland in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in each of the last five years. [72969]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of jobs which were created in Scotland in the (a) public and (b) private sector in each of the last five years (72969).

As this matter is the responsibility of Scottish ministers I would advise that you write to the Scottish Government.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Devon

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were taken up in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Newton Abbot constituency in each of the last 12 months. [72677]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows a quarterly breakdown of apprenticeship starts in Devon local education authority and Newton Abbot parliamentary constituency, in the first nine months of the 2010/11 academic year, from August 2010 to April 2011, based on provisional data.

The Statistical First Release is used for the latest apprenticeship figures. Monthly apprenticeship data are not available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in Devon local education authority and Newton Abbot constituency, between 1 August 2010 and 30 April 2011 (provisional)

				Provisional
	August 2010 to October 2010	*November 2010 to January 2011*	*February 2011 to April 2011*	*August 2010 to April 2011*
Devon local education authority	2,330	1,560	1,390	5,280
Newton Abbot constituency	320	170	160	660

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Credit

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by what date his Department expects to announce a winning tender for its proposed research into the likely effects of caps on the cost of credit; by what date such research is due to be completed; and by what date the results of the research will be announced. [72207]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 10 October 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills expects to make an announcement on the outcome of the tendering process on carrying out research on the impact of a cap on the total cost of credit that can be charged in the short to medium-term fixed rate high cost credit market at the end of October.

Rather than a cap on the total cost of credit, research commissioned by the previous Administration considered the impact of flat rate interest rate caps in the high cost credit market. This research found that interest rate caps would in all likelihood be detrimental to those consumers who rely on this market for credit, reducing access to licensed credit and potentially forcing them to have to borrow from unlicensed illegal lenders.

The Department will give an update on the progress of the research in the spring and anticipates that the research will have been completed and the findings announced by summer 2012.

Small Businesses

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of small and medium-sized businesses to the economy. [72780]

Mr Prisk: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make a very significant contribution to the UK economy. Statistics released by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills show that at the start of 2010, there were an estimated 4.5 million SMEs, accounting for 99.9% of all UK private sector enterprises. SMEs also contributed more than half of all private sector employment (13.3 million or 59.1%) and almost half of all private sector turnover (£1,600 billion or 48.6%). Other data produced by the Office for National Statistics estimate that in 2009, SMEs contributed almost half (48.3%) of all UK private sector output as measured by gross value added (GVA).

Small Businesses: Billing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effects of late payments on the productivity of small and medium-sized businesses. [72781]

Mr Prisk: There are no robust data about the impact of late payment upon the productivity of small and medium-sized businesses but we do know that late payment creates a climate of uncertainty in the supply chain, inhibiting investment and innovation and stifling growth.

That is why Government have worked hand in hand with the UK's leading business representative organisations, finance bodies and banks to develop a multi-faceted strategy for addressing what is a long-standing and widespread culture of late payment.

A critical issue in this regard is supporting business to better manage customer relationships: the majority of UK transactions currently take place with no pre-agreed payment terms and Barclays data show that only one in 10 suppliers regularly credit checks customers.

The guides on managing cash flow, developed by the Institute of Credit Management and supported by all the UK's leading business organisations, finance bodies and banks, have proven to be very popular. They provide a simple checklist on a variety of cash flow actions, including agreeing payment terms and invoicing correctly.

While changing a long-standing culture takes time, the latest data we have on late payment across the UK economy (sourced from Experian) show speed of payment improving in the second quarter of 2011 and better than the same period in 2010.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 12 October 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Entry Clearances

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on security and the common travel area since May 2010. [72171]

Mr Swire: Neither the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), nor I have had such discussions with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive. We maintain close contacts on these issues with other UK authorities. I met the Minister for Immigration, my hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green), in March to discuss the common travel area and Northern Ireland Office officials remain in close contact with their counterparts in the UK Border Agency and Home Office, and we will be alert to any aspects of these issues that affect the Executive's responsibilities.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what procedures her Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73113]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office is now part of the Home Office. The information requested will be provided by the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72943]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office is now part of the Home Office. The information requested will be provided by the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of his letter to the European institutions regarding the searching of religious headgear at airports. [72085]

Mrs Villiers: I will place in the Library a copy of the letter I sent to my European Union counterparts and the European Commission explaining the UK approach to the screening of religious headgear.

Blue Badge Scheme

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate has been made of the number of blue badges in circulation. [72949]

Norman Baker: The number of blue badges in circulation in England at 31 March 2010 was estimated at 2.55 million.

Bus Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to allowing delegated driving examiners to provide tests for multiple bus companies where there is no conflict of interest. [73740]

Mike Penning: The appointment of 'delegated driving examiners' is provided for in legislation. This requires the company appointing the examiner to be approved by the Secretary of State and provides for the Secretary of State to impose conditions on that approval.

Under the approvals given to bus companies allowance can be made for testing of candidates employed or potentially employed by those companies or 'sister companies' i.e. another company within the same holding company. These companies have a vested interest in ensuring tests conducted are of a high quality. There is no provision for multiple companies to be approved and no such change has been proposed.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the costs incurred by municipal bus companies as a result of being restricted to borrowing only from local authorities; [73741]

(2) what consideration he has give to bringing forward legislative proposals to amend the Transport Act 1985 to allow municipal bus companies to borrow on the open market; and if he will make a statement. [73742]

Norman Baker: Bus companies have been restricted to borrowing only from local authorities since 1986, following deregulation and privatisation of bus operators in Great Britain outside London. I currently have no plans to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Transport Act 1985 to allow municipal bus companies to borrow on the open market. I have therefore made no estimate of any costs incurred by municipal bus companies as a result of being restricted to borrowing only from their controlling local authorities.

Coastguard Agency: Liverpool

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the proposal by staff at Liverpool Maritime and Coastguard Agency to create a Maritime Operations Centre at Liverpool. [73744]

Mike Penning: No assessment has been made of the proposal referred to above.

On 14 July the Government set out revised proposals for the modernisation of Her Majesty's Coastguard. These provide for a single Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) to be located in the Southampton/Portsmouth area. The first consultation sought views about the proposal to base the MOC in the Southampton/Portsmouth area. The responses were used to inform the decision which was included as a settled matter in the revised proposal. Accordingly, the second consultation did not invite alternative proposals about the location of the MOC.

Great Western Railway Line

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to electrify the Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea. [70769]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has confirmed funding for the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London and Cardiff.

The Government currently have no plans for further electrification between Cardiff and Swansea because we believe that all the benefits that would result from electrification to Swansea can be delivered using a combination of electrification to Cardiff and deployment of new intercity express programme bi-mode trains, switching seamlessly from electric to diesel traction at Cardiff.

We expect the new electric and bi-mode train fleet to be deployed on the Great Western by 2017. This will increase capacity and cut journey times between Swansea and London by 20 minutes. The new trains will thus give passengers the same benefits as a fully electric fleet.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 959W, on motorways: speed limits, whether his Department plans to review default speed limits on classes of road other than motorways. [72255]

Mike Penning: The Department's review of default speed limits is focused on the national motorway speed limit. It is not actively reviewing the national 30 mph speed limit for built up (lit) roads, the 60 mph limit for non-built up single carriageway roads or the 70 mph limit for non-built up dual carriageway all-purpose roads.

In the course of considering the national motorway speed limit, the case for parallel changes on sections of high standard dual carriageway all-purpose trunk roads is being considered.

A consultation on these issues will be published in due course.

Railways: Fares

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the decision to allow the inflation linked cap on rail fares to rise from retail prices index plus 1 per cent. to RPI plus 3 per cent. from January 2012; and if he will make a statement. [71421]

Mrs Villiers: The pressing need to tackle the deficit has forced the Government to take difficult decisions on fares. The average cap on regulated rail fares will increase by retail prices index (RPI)+3% for three years from 2012 in order to protect planned rail investment.

Sir Roy McNulty recently completed an extensive review on value for money on the UK's railways. He made a number of recommendations which he believes could deliver major cost savings and we will be considering these in depth. Our aim is to deliver savings benefiting both taxpayers and passengers.

Railways: Heathrow Airport

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail regarding a railway transport hub at Heathrow airport; [70763]

(2) when he plans to make an announcement of the outcomes of discussions on a transport connection between Heathrow airport, the proposed High Speed Rail 2 and the Great Western Mainline; [70764]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of an improved rail connection between south Wales and Heathrow airport; [70765]

(4) what estimate he has made of the change in average travel time between south Wales and Heathrow airport which would result from a railway transport hub at Heathrow airport; [70766]

(5) what discussions he has had with the owners of Cardiff airport about the likely effects of a railway transport hub at Heathrow airport; [70767]

(6) what recent estimate he has made of the cost of creating a railway transport hub at Heathrow airport. [70768]

Mrs Villiers: Following publication by Network Rail of its London and South East Route Utilisation Strategy in July 2011, the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and officials from the Department for Transport have, separately, had discussions with Network Rail and BAA regarding taking forward the recommendations in the strategy for improvements in rail access to Heathrow airport. Network Rail is now progressing further work to determine in more detail the case for a rail connection from the Great Western Main Line to Heathrow airport including an assessment of costs and the economic benefits arising from the effect on travel times. No wider stakeholder consultation has yet been undertaken. The Department for Transport expects to make a further announcement in due course.

Rescue Services

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what responses he has received to his Department's consultation on the future of the coastguard; and what assessment he has made of those submissions. [73745]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) received just under 780 formal responses, together with a number of petitions and campaign letters on specific issues. The independent review team that was formed to review the proposals associated with the first consultation has reconvened and are categorising the responses to the second consultation.

An analysis report will be prepared as soon as possible, on the basis of which the MCA will put forward recommendations for consideration by Ministers.

As with the first consultation all of these responses, it will be published as soon as possible.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the note of each meeting held by *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* Ministers of State on (i) Thameslink and (ii) train rolling stock where Thameslink was discussed between the date of his appointment and 16 June 2011; [71623]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each *(a)* internal meeting with his Department and *(b)* meeting between his Department and other departments in respect of the Thameslink rolling stock contract in (i) May, (ii) June and (iii) July 2011; [71624]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each risk assessment or risk register held by his Department which contains assessments of the risk associated with the assessment and award of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project contract; [71625]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of each risk assessment or risk register held by his Department which contains assessments of the risk associated with the implementation of the Thameslink Programme. [71626]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* Details of bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project are confidential to Siemens, Bombardier and the Department. To release this information could compromise their and the Department's commercial positions.

WALES

Private Sector Job Creation

9. **Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues and others on job creation in the private sector in Wales. [72892]

11. **Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues and others on job creation in the private sector in Wales. [72895]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and other interested parties on ways in which we can stimulate job creation in the private sector in Wales.

We must create the environment where the private sector is able to grow and to prosper, in order for businesses to create much needed jobs in Wales and we will continue to work with the Welsh Government to achieve that aim.

Higher Education

12. **Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* her ministerial colleagues and *(b)* university vice-chancellors on cross-border issues in higher education. [72896]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues including higher education.

While higher education is devolved in Wales, my right hon. Friend and I take a close interest in this area and we are in the process of meeting with the vice chancellors of Wales' universities to hear their views on this and other matters.

Pensioner Poverty

13. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment she has made of the extent of pensioner poverty in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [72897]

Mr David Jones: The Government are determined that all pensioners in Wales and throughout the UK should have a decent and secure income in retirement.

Swansea Coastguard Station

14. **Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the future of Swansea coastguard station. [72898]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), has regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues that affect Wales including the proposals to modernise the coastguard service.

As hon. Members will be aware, the consultation on the Government's revised proposals ended last week (6 October), and the Department for Transport are currently examining the responses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Pre-departure Accommodation Centre

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who she expects to undertake the independent inspection of the pre-departure accommodation centre for families and children detained for immigration purposes at Pease Pottage opened on 5 September 2011. [73553]

Damian Green: Cedars, the pre-departure accommodation for families with children at Pease Pottage, which I opened on 17 August, fulfils the Government's commitment to end the detention of children. It will be subject to independent inspection by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, who already has statutory responsibility for the UK Border Agency's short-term holding facilities as well as its immigration removal centres. An Independent

Monitoring Board will also be appointed for the facility and the Children's Commissioner for England will have a statutory right of access.

Anti-slavery Day

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to mark Anti-slavery day 2011. [73447]

Damian Green: The Government are planning to mark Anti-slavery day 2011 by supporting a range of events, including the launch of a training and referral process for the airline industry with a major UK airline.

Asylum

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much section 4 asylum support was granted in the 12 months to 1 September 2011. [73056]

Damian Green: Expenditure on Section 4 asylum support incurred by UK Border Agency in the 12 months to 1 September 2011 was £38.2 million. This figure has been taken from the financial records of the UK Border Agency and is unaudited and subject to possible future amendment and revision.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were granted in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [73624]

Damian Green: The number of asylum applications that were granted in the UK in 2009 and 2010 were 4,188 and 3,488 respectively. A further 2,554 in 2009 and 1,707 in 2010 were also granted discretionary leave and humanitarian protection.

Further information on asylum is available from the Immigration Statistics release available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73106]

Damian Green: The Home Department has a robust governance process in place to ensure that control is applied to all requests to appoint external consultants for both new engagements and extensions to existing arrangements.

The Department's approvals procedure is implemented through the Departmental Consultancy and Contingent Labour Approvals Board, chaired by the Director General of Financial and Commercial Group. The Board thoroughly scrutinises each business case for the engagement of external consultants and decides whether to approve the request or not, on the strengths of each case.

All new consulting engagements with an anticipated value greater than £20,000 require the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May).

Our procedures comply with the Cabinet Office requirement to submit the following three types of request to the Efficiency and Reform Group:

Where consulting engagements are expected to go beyond nine months;

Where the engagement is for procurement services and will cost £20,000 or more and;

To prolong an existing engagement beyond nine months.

Approved consulting engagements are competitively tendered through an appropriate Government Procurement Service framework or, in exceptional circumstances, through an open competition advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73833]

Damian Green: The Home Department has made good progress and has eliminated the use of pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000.

Domestic Violence

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the removal of protection under the Immigration Rules for victims of domestic violence with unspent criminal convictions. [73242]

Damian Green: We received comments from 48 corporate partners on the criminality requirement for settlement guidance. We will be making minor alterations to our guidance in response to some of the suggestions from corporate partners.

The Government do not accept that the requirement to have no unspent convictions for settlement applications is incompatible with the commitment given to provide protection to victims of domestic violence. Where an applicant does have an unspent conviction and the offence is minor and where there are compelling and compassionate circumstances and the offence is related to the domestic violence, the UK Border Agency has discretion to disregard it and grant settlement outside the rules or grant temporary leave, including with access to benefits, if that is more appropriate.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the objectives are for the domestic abuse, stalking and honour-based violence risk identification training for police forces; [73509]

(2) what potential benefits she has identified for the participation of criminal justice professionals in the domestic abuse, stalking and honour-based violence risk identification training courses. [73510]

Lynne Featherstone: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) accredited the domestic abuse, stalking and honour based violence (DASH) risk identification, assessment and management model to be implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009. Although we understand that the majority of forces currently use DASH it is for individual forces and organisations to decide which risk assessment models to use, what training their officers and staff receive, and the specific objectives and benefits of such training.

Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals relating to visa applications under the asylum category have been *(a)* upheld and *(b)* refused in the last 12 months. [73055]

Damian Green: It has been assumed that the request is for figures on determinations of appeals on applications for asylum. In the last 12 months for which data are available (July 2010 to June 2011), there were 12,503 asylum appeals determined at the First-tier Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber.

Of these 12,503 appeal determinations, 3,364 appeals were allowed (upheld) and 8,474 appeals were dismissed (refused). The remaining 665 appeals were withdrawn.

These data were published in Table as.14.q of Immigration Statistics: April to June 2011. Further information on asylum is available from the immigration Statistics releases available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals for visa applications in the Family Migrant category have *(a)* been upheld and *(b)* failed in the last 12 months. [73435]

Damian Green: The number of appeals against visa applications allowed and dismissed for the settlement category in the year ending June 2011 (the latest date for which figures are available) were 6,610 allowed and 5,440 dismissed. The number of appeals against visa applications allowed and dismissed for the family visit category for the year ending June 2011 (the latest date for which figures are available) were 16,961 allowed and 18,421 dismissed.

Finance

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to promote the use of participatory budgeting in future resource allocation decisions for which her Department is responsible. [73125]

Nick Herbert: Local engagement is particularly important in crime and policing and it is up to the relevant authorities in a local area to determine how to allocate resources, including whether to adopt participatory budgeting. Through the introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), the Home Office is strengthening local accountability over how resources are used to tackle crime reduction and policing. PCCs will determine local policing priorities, publish a five-year police and crime plan, set a local precept and set the annual force budget in discussion with chief constables. PCCs will be required to seek the views of local people before deciding how resources are allocated.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to reply to the letter of 3 June 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North (Mr Winnick) regarding constituents, ref: M10597; [64344]

(2) further to the interim reply of 7 July 2011, ref M10597, when she plans to provide a substantive reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 3 June 2011. [66854]

Nick Herbert: A reply was sent on 18 July 2011.

Police: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the average number of years in employment for a police constable in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [73693]

Nick Herbert: Information on the average number of years in employment for a police constable is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects figures for the number of currently serving officers, broken down by rank and length of service. However, length of service is grouped by size-bands, some of which span five years (eg 10 years to 15 years length of service), therefore any calculation of current average length of service would be an approximation.

Police: e-mail

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides to police forces on provision of contact e-mail addresses for chief constables. [70665]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The Home Office does not issue any guidance to police forces on the provision of contact e-mail addresses for chief constables.

Police: Termination of Employment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 1009W, on police: termination of employment, what action a police officer leaving a police force can take if a police force refuses to issue them with a certificate showing *(a)* final rank and *(b)* period of service. [72947]

Nick Herbert: Failure to provide a person who ceases to be a member of a police force with a certificate showing his rank and period of service would be a breach of the Police Regulations. The regulations do not prescribe any sanction for a breach of this kind, but any unlawful act by a public authority is potentially susceptible to challenge by way of judicial review.

Research Records

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of recommendation 14 of the Review of research using non-human primates chaired by Professor Sir Patrick Bateson FRS; when she proposes that new advice will be given to research workers on the destruction of records; and how such advice would be communicated. [73612]

Lynne Featherstone: Recommendation 14 of the Review of research using non-human primates chaired by Professor Sir Patrick Bateson FRS stated that the Home Office should reconsider their advice to research workers to destroy records after five years.

The recommendation appears to be based on a misunderstanding as the Home Office does not give any such advice. For the avoidance of doubt, we require researchers and establishments to keep records for at least five years; when those records are destroyed after that is a matter for decision locally.

This has been communicated to researchers in a certificate holders circular and an e-newsletter.

Sojourner Project

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from women's groups on the Sojourner Project. [73083]

Damian Green: No specific representations have recently been received from women's groups regarding the Sojourner Project by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May).

Discussions have taken place between UK Border Agency officials and women's organisations on the long-term replacement of the Sojourner Project which is scheduled to be introduced in April 2012.

UK Border Agency: Armed Forces

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the accessibility and clarity of UK Border Agency guidance for Commonwealth military personnel and foreign national families of military personnel moving to the UK. [73823]

Damian Green: Those Foreign and Commonwealth nationals serving with the armed forces are considered exempt from immigration control throughout their service. The actions required relating to the immigration status of their families coming to live in the United Kingdom are clearly set out in the immigration rules and in guidance on the UK Border Agency website.

The UK Border Agency works closely with the Ministry of Defence to ensure guidance and briefing notes issued by both Departments are amended when necessary and easily available to all service personnel.

UK Border Agency: Translation Services

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on translation services in each of the last five years. [73341]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) employs freelance interpreters to provide translation services when interviewing asylum seekers whose English is insufficient for the interview to be conducted in that language.

Expenditure on interpreters incurred by the UK Border Agency in the last five years has been as follows:

	£
2010-11	5,105,153
2009-10	6,020,104
2008-09	6,828,442
2007-08	6,437,698
2006-07	2,586,375

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on recruitment advertising for the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and Royal Marines and *(c)* Royal Air Force since May 2010. [71068]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* It is a key requirement for each of the armed forces to maintain a satisfactory balance of skills, experience, ability and seniority in rank to enable delivery of operational requirements. Despite the reduction in overall numbers of service personnel, and the associated need for a redundancy programme, the armed forces must still recruit and train personnel to replace those who leave the services at the end of their current engagements. In order to maintain that balance each service continues to recruit where personnel are required, including those trades/branches which are historically difficult to fill due to the requirement of specialist qualifications or experience.

The Ministry of Defence has spent £5.19 million for the Army, £2.20 million for the Royal Navy, and £1.85 million for the Royal Air Force on recruitment advertising since May 2010. These figures include current television advertising and short notice opportunity low value advertising in magazines in newspapers.

EU Defence Policy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which European Defence Agency projects the UK is taking part. [72348]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The only European Defence Agency (EDA) project to which we have a specific financial commitment, in addition to our annual membership fees, is the helicopter training project. However, as part of our membership we are also involved in several EDA initiatives. Our contribution to these initiatives takes a variety of forms including equipment and systems testing and the sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience.

EU Defence Policy: Offices

Mr Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role Permanent Structural Cooperation will have in the creation of an EU Permanent Operational Headquarters. [72312]

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role Permanent Structural Cooperation will have in the creation of an EU Permanent Operational Headquarters; and whether the UK will have a veto. [72740]

Mr Gerald Howarth: NATO remains the cornerstone of UK defence. We see no justification for a permanent EU military Operational Headquarters (OHQ) and would oppose it, whether there is an attempt to create it by Permanent Structural Cooperation (PESCO) or other means. We have been clear that establishment of a permanent OHQ would be a duplication of existing capability provided by NATO, would permanently disassociate the EU from NATO and would be an unnecessary use of resources.

Under the Lisbon treaty, signed by the previous Government, PESCO could be established by qualified majority voting in the European Council following notification from member states wishing to participate in it. However, all decisions made within PESCO are made by unanimity. Therefore, individual member states do not have the ability to veto the establishment of PESCO, but those who participate would have the right to veto any decisions made within it. Regardless of whether PESCO were to be established, the UK retains the ability to veto the launch of any EU operation.

HEALTH

Health and Social Care Bill 2010-12

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Health and Social Care Bill to require joint working between health and education services in respect of children. [73634]

Anne Milton: The Health and Social Care Bill establishes health and well-being boards, to join up commissioning across the national health service, public health, adult social care and other services, such as education, that the local health and well-being board agrees will contribute to health and well-being.

There is broad support for our proposals for health and well-being boards, which will include Directors of Children's Services as core members, as well as Clinical Commissioning Groups. The boards will have an interest in encouraging the involvement of schools and colleges. Schools will want a voice in the provision of health services for children and young people. These arrangements will be determined locally, in a way that is proportionate and appropriate, both to the capacity of local schools and wider local arrangements to promote children's well-being under the Children's Act 2004.

Health Professions: Qualifications

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the European Commission's review of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC, with regard to *(a)* midwives and *(b)* other health care professionals. [73597]

Anne Milton: The Government's position on the European Commission's Green Paper on Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive, is set out in the UK Government response to the Commission's consultation which was issued by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on 20 September 2011. A copy of the Government response is available on the BIS website at:

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/europe/docs/e/11-1297-ec-green-paper-professional-qualifications-directive-uk-response

We will give consideration in due course to any specific legislative proposals put forward by the European Commission, which impact on midwives and/or other health professions and we will engage with the relevant health professions regulatory bodies on these proposals.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1179W, on health services: overseas visitors *(a)* how much was owed to the NHS in unpaid bills incurred by foreign nationals and *(b)* what the sum was of NHS bills incurred by foreign nationals in each year between 1997 and 2011 by primary care trust. [73562]

Anne Milton: The sum of national health service bills incurred by overseas visitors is made up of: income received; total losses, bad debt and claims abandoned; and income which is still in the process of being recovered (not all figures will fall in the same year in which charges incurred).

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 850W, which gave total audited income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal arrangements as well as total losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for years for which figures are available for England. The Department does not have these data attributable to primary care trust areas.

The Department has not made an estimate of the total amount of monies owed by overseas visitors that the NHS is in the process of recovering.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1263-4W, on health services: reciprocal arrangements, what steps he is taking to ensure the timely recovery of outstanding payments; and what the level of outstanding payments is from the UK to each country listed. [73561]

Anne Milton: European Union regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009, which entered into force on 1 May 2010, introduce new deadlines for the payment of claims between member states, which means that a member state must pay an undisputed claim within 18 months of receipt of the claim. If the claim is not paid within the deadlines as set out in the regulations, then the creditor member state can charge interest on the claim.

The following table shows the outstanding amounts, as at 10 October 2011, to be paid by the United Kingdom to each member state of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland, for actual cost claims submitted up to and including the financial year 2010-11. The amounts relate to combined claims for temporary visitors (via European Health Insurance Cards), workers temporarily posted abroad by their employer and referrals for treatment in other EEA countries. Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not currently possible to disaggregate the data consistently for all member states by either type of claim or type of treatment.

	£
Austria	1,731,000
Belgium	8,515,000
Bulgaria	17,000
Cyprus	1,499,000
Czech Republic	544,000
Finland	8,000
France	-643,000
Germany	4,658,000
Greece	273,000
Hungary	0
Iceland	53,000
Ireland	44,305,000
Italy	2,516,000
Latvia	0
Liechtenstein	0
Lithuania	2,000
Luxembourg	263,000
Netherlands	0
Norway	0
Poland	-14,000
Portugal	0
Romania	1,000
Slovakia	268,000
Slovenia	99,000
Spain	0
Sweden	342,000
Switzerland	1,104,000
Total	65,500,000

Notes:

1. Country totals are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Overall totals are rounded to the nearest 100,000. Sub-totals may not add up to totals due to rounding.
2. Equivalent totals based on latest EU quarterly exchange rates for conversion of currencies
3. Denmark—Full waiver
4. Estonia and Norway—Waiver, excepting Article 22.1c (patient referral) and Article 55.1c (industrial injury) claims.
5. Finland, Hungary and Malta—Waiver, excepting Article 22.1c (patient referral) claims.
6. Netherlands—Netherlands claim amounts are determined and settled on an annual basis in arrears. There are no outstanding amounts for claims determined in 2010-11 and in prior years.
7. The position shown relates to the position for claims submitted up to and including the financial year 2010-11 as at 30 September 2011. Outstanding amounts are subject to constant change as part of the normal process of claims verification and settlement.
8. Negative amounts relate to the withdrawal or rejection of elements of claims subsequent to a payment.

Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether a requirement will be placed on the franchise holder for Hinchingbrooke NHS Trust to reduce the trust's legacy debt; and whether it will be permitted to *(a)* sell any of the trust's assets, *(b)* discontinue services and *(c)* build new facilities on the trust site for use by private patients; [72958]

(2) whether staff employed at Hinchingbrooke NHS Trust will become employees of the franchise holder under the terms of the franchise; and whether they will retain their existing terms and conditions of employment; [72959]

(3) what plans he has for the future of the debt held by Hinchingbrooke NHS Trust; [73578]

(4) on what basis the clinical and financial performance of Hinchingbrooke NHS Trust will be assessed under its operating franchise; and what benchmarks he plans to set to assess the performance of the franchise; [73579]

(5) whether the board of Hinchingbrooke NHS Trust will continue to meet in public and publish agendas and minutes of its meetings under the terms of its operating franchise; [73580]

(6) if he will publish the contract with Circle Heath for the franchise of Hinchingbrooke NHS Trust. [73581]

Mr Simon Burns: Based on advice from the NHS East of England strategic health authority, we can confirm the following:

The Hinchingbrooke Next Steps project was devised to establish a solution to Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust's historic debt and secure its long term sustainability. The trust's board recognised that it was unlikely to reach foundation trust status as a standalone organisation or pay back its debt to the taxpayer so, after a public consultation in 2007, a procurement took place to find a suitable partner, using a unique franchise arrangement. On 25 November 2010, following considerable stakeholder engagement, Circle was announced as the recommended bidder to take on the management of Hinchingbrooke and the full business case was sent to the Department and HM Treasury for scrutiny. It is anticipated that a decision regarding the business case will be made very soon.

Circle will manage the hospital but the hospital will trade and provide services as a national health service trust. The trust will therefore be subject to the same quality and standards regulations as all other NHS hospitals.

The board of Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust will continue to meet in public and publish its agendas and minutes.

Currently, there is no contract between Circle and Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust. The contract will be signed only when approvals have been received from the Department and HM Treasury. The contract may be made publicly available, subject to commercial confidentiality.

Circle has made a commitment to address the hospital's historic debt. The trust, under Circle's management, may be permitted, subject to normal NHS procedures, to sell its assets. However, any revenue gained would be reinvested within the hospital. As part of the franchise, Circle is committed to maintain the current level of services, as long as commissioners continue to purchase them. This includes accident and emergency and maternity services, a commitment to which was made following the 2007 public consultation, led by the lead commissioner, NHS Cambridgeshire. In the future, if there are proposals to change the services provided at the hospital, they will be subject to public consultation, as they would with any NHS hospital. Circle's plans for the hospital as defined in their bid do not include plans to construct any new facilities.

Under the Hinchingbrooke hospital franchise arrangement, staff will remain employees of the NHS, retaining their terms and conditions. The hospital's assets will remain within the NHS, and patients will continue to receive NHS services.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his letter to the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne of 7 December 2010, what the reason is for the time taken to commence the franchise of Hinchingbrooke NHS Trust. [73582]

Mr Simon Burns: The business case for the appointment of the proposed preferred bidder for the management franchise at Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust is currently with the Government for consideration. This has taken longer then expected to review, but it is important to emphasise the significance of this business case in terms of the new model of contract and financial transaction involved, requiring a full and considered analysis.

A decision is now expected very shortly.

Hospitals: Greater London

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of non-disclosure clauses signed by doctors in each London hospital in the last five years; and what information his Department holds on the reasons for the clause in each case. [73739]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information. Each national health service employer would hold information in relation to the use of non-disclosure clauses for its own employees including doctors.

Influenza: Vaccination

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of influenza vaccine for winter 2011-12. [73470]

Anne Milton: Departmental officials are in regular contact with influenza vaccine suppliers; who have reported no problems with the production or distribution of the vaccine for this flu season. Vaccine suppliers are making available 16.7 million doses of vaccine in the United Kingdom this winter. This figure is about one million doses higher than the equivalent figure last year. In addition, the Department has procured a strategic reserve of 400,000 doses of vaccine for use if shortages occur.

Vaccine suppliers report that by week ending 30 September, 8.4 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine have been distributed to the national health service and private sector in the UK. This is 1.3 million doses higher than the equivalent figure last year.

Medical Records: Databases

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the safeguards in the Personal Demographics Service to prevent illegal access to personal information. [73738]

Mr Simon Burns: The Personal Demographics Service (PDS) resides within a fully private network known as N3. The service can only be accessed from within this private network or through centrally managed and assured gateways such as the secure Government network (GCSX). If an attacker manages to gain access to the national health service private N3 network they would then have to break through many separate layers of tiered architecture with each tier being protected by industry grade firewalls of different manufacture to access the database. The firewalls are supported by intrusion detection systems, and other multiple security measures which routinely monitor network traffic and alert upon detection of suspicious activity.

Local access to the PDS is controlled by local organisations and each organisation is legally responsible for compliance with the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation. This requires that they put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data such as that held by the PDS. Organisations with access to the PDS are expected to complete and publish an annual assessment of the adequacy of their safeguards through the NHS Information Governance Toolkit.

Members: Correspondence

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Leeds West (Rachel Reeves) of 2 September 2011. [73706]

Mr Simon Burns: I responded to the hon. Member's letter of 2 September 2011 on 11 October 2011.

NHS: Psychology

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychologists employed by the NHS specialised in *(a)* cancer, *(b)* dermatology, *(c)* burns, *(d)* plastics, *(e)* ophthalmology, *(f)* craniofacial conditions, *(g)* maxillofacial conditions and *(h)* neurological conditions in the latest period for which figures are available. [73560]

Mr Simon Burns: The annual national health service work force census does not collect the number of psychologists who work in each of the specialist areas. The number of clinical psychologists employed by the NHS in England at 30 September 2010 was 6,901 full-time equivalent staff.

NHS: Reform

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how commissioners will obtain specialist advice on speech, language and communication needs under his proposals for NHS reform. [73635]

Mr Simon Burns: A full range of health and care professionals will be involved in the new commissioning arrangements, supporting the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups to design pathways of care and shape services including those services providing specialist advice on speech, language and communication. Clinical commissioning groups will be under a duty to secure professional advice and to ensure this advice is from a full range of health professionals where relevant.

Clinical commissioning groups will receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services. Clinical networks and senates will have a wide range of multi-disciplinary input, including allied health professionals, to support the better integration of services.

Orthopaedics: Footwear

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints the NHS received in relation to orthopaedic shoes in each of the last five years. [72948]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly including the provision of orthopaedic footwear. They are free to determine their own criteria for the provision of orthopaedic footwear and should ensure the quality of services is appropriate.

Waiting Lists: Birmingham

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people waited over six months for NHS treatment in Birmingham in each year since 1997. [72407]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not collected in the form requested.

Number of finished consultant episodes with a wait of over[1,2] six months (182 days or more), for all Birmingham primary care trusts[3], from 1997-98 to 2009-10[4]

	Finished consultant episodes
2009-10	14,994
2008-09	13,590
2007-08	9,925
2006-07	9,522
2005-06	9,675
2004-05	11,149
2003-04	13,649
2002-03	15,448
2001-02	11,609
2000-01	10,974
1999-2000	9,473
1998-99	14,982
1997-98	11,398

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting-list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension. In order to calculate those who waited more than six months, we have used waits of 182 days or longer.

[3] In July 2006, the national health service reorganised strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years. Data have been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided.

2006-07 onwards:

PCTs used:

5M1—South Birmingham
5MX—Heart of Birmingham
5PG—Birmingham East and North

Pre 2006-07:

5MX—Heart of Birmingham
5M1—South Birmingham
5MW—North Birmingham PCT
5MY—Eastern Birmingham PCT

[4] HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* inpatient and *(b)* outpatient treatments was for patients in Birmingham on (i) May 1997 and (ii) May of each subsequent year. [72408]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is as follows:

Average time waited for in-patients and out-patients[1] in Birmingham primary care trusts of residence[2], from May 1997-98 to May 2009-10 for the months of May[3]

	In-patients	Out-patients
2009-10	59.2	37.6
2008-09	56.0	36.4
2007-08	61.1	45.6
2006-07	62.9	54.7
2005-06	62.3	48.6
2004-05	64.9	47.7
2003-04	66.9	44.0
2002-03	62.3	n/a
2001-02	63.9	n/a

Average time waited for in-patients and out-patients[1] in Birmingham primary care trusts of residence[2], from May 1997-98 to May 2009-10 for the months of May[3]

	In-patients	*Out-patients*
2000-01	69.5	n/a
1999-2000	67.1	n/a
1998-99	93.1	n/a
1997-98	80.1	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

[2] In July 2006, the national health service reorganised strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years. Data have been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided.

2006-07 onwards:

PCTs used:

5M1—South Birmingham
5MX—Heart of Birmingham
5PG—Birmingham East and North

Pre 2006-07:

5MX—Heart of Birmingham
5M1—South Birmingham
5MW—North Birmingham PCT
5MY—Eastern Birmingham PCT

[3] HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: British Council

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the British Council's work in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [73287]

Mr Hague: The British Council carries out important work in Afghanistan in dangerous circumstances. The attack on their compound on 19 August is a reminder of the difficult circumstances in which they work, and I pay tribute to their staff. The Council is currently operating from a temporary office in our embassy compound and has sustained all its major programmes.

The British Council returned to Afghanistan in 2002 and runs programmes supporting the professional aspirations of the next generation of Afghan leaders and in support of the Afghan people as they take control of their own development, governance, stability and cultural determination. This includes programmes in education, civil society, English and cultural development. In 2010-11 they engaged with 13,000 Afghans face to face and reached over two million through digital means, broadcast and publications. For example, their schools programme has involved over 11,000 students and teachers who worked on joint curriculum projects with UK schools.

They continue to provide Afghan military staff with English training and Ministry of Education English supervisors with training in modern methods of English teaching.

The British Council measures the impact and effectiveness of all its work using indicators measuring customer satisfaction, reputation and advocacy. There is a standard evaluation framework used to evaluate the impact of every programme.

Algeria: Religious Freedom

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Algeria on religious freedom for Christians in that country. [73567]

Alistair Burt: The Government raise human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, with the Government of Algeria regularly, both in bilateral discussions and through the EU. Following a recent visit by Stefan Füle, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, the EU and the Algerian Government have increased dialogue on these issues, by establishing a sub-committee on security and human rights.

We continue to monitor religious freedom in the middle east and North African region closely and will raise this issue as part of our discussions with the Algerian Government.

Belarus

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department last had direct discussions with the government of Belarus. [73617]

Mr Lidington: There have been no direct ministerial discussions between the UK and Belarus since the last general election. I did however see the Belarusian ambassador to London on 22 December 2010 to express condemnation on behalf of the British Government of the abuse of political freedom by the Belarusian authorities which followed the presidential elections on 19 December 2010.

B'Tselem

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support his Department provided to B'Tselem—The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories in each of the last five years. [73543]

Alistair Burt: During the last five years the Middle East and North Africa Conflict programme have provided £185,000 to B'Tselem.

This is broken down as follows:

	£
2010-11	135,000
2006-07	[1]50,000

[1] Project jointly administered by B'Tselem and Hamoked

The project in 2010-11 was designed to bring about an improvement in the human rights situation in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem using film and video documentation as both a deterrent and tool for accountability.

In 2006-7 the project was to help the facilitation of freedom of movement for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories through legal and administrative action, advocacy and public education.

China

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the government of China in 2011. [73618]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK Government has held three high-level dialogues and a wide range of ministerial-level dialogues and other meetings with the Chinese Government in 2011. The high level dialogues and visits in the UK have included the Prime Ministerial Summit in June, the Strategic Dialogue in late September, the Economic and Financial Dialogue in early September and the visit of Vice Premier Li Keqiang in January. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and officials were involved in all of these visits, each of which involved several meetings with several Chinese Ministers and officials.

FCO Ministers have also been involved in ministerial-level dialogues and meetings including a meeting between the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September, the first Growth Dialogue with the National Development and Reform Commission hosted by the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Green in London in September, and visits to London by Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying and Assistant Ministry of Commerce Minister Qiu Hong.

In addition, Lord Green in March, and I in May/June both visited China where we met our ministerial counterparts and other representatives of the Chinese Government.

We have also held a number of official-level dialogues with the Chinese Government including the Human Rights Dialogue in the UK in January, the Counter Proliferation and Security Dialogue in China in June, an Africa Dialogue in the UK in June, and a South Asia Dialogue in China in September. FCO officials responsible for a wide range of policy areas have also visited China for expert-level discussions in 2011.

FCO officials regularly meet Chinese embassy officials in London, as well as visiting delegations from China covering a range of subjects. FCO officials based in our diplomatic network in China also meet Chinese Government representatives on a very frequent basis.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hon. Members his Department assisted in arranging visas for or meetings in China in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [73620]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Applications for visas for China are dealt with by the Chinese embassy. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not assist hon. Members with their visa applications. However the FCO Travel Centre will provide practical assistance to FCO and other Ministers with their applications for a visa.

The China Department of the FCO and our embassy and consulates general in China may assist visiting Members of Parliament and parliamentary delegations with setting up their programmes and by providing factual briefings where necessary. The Department provided logistical assistance and/or factual briefings for 12 non-ministerial visits to China by hon. Members in 2010 and 16 in 2011.

China: Human Rights

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed in person human rights and democracy with the Chinese Ambassador. [73143]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) last discussed human rights and democracy with the Chinese ambassador in person at the UK-China strategic dialogue on 26 September. Chinese State Councillor Dai Bingguo was also in attendance.

Colombia: Human Rights

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what human rights issues he raised during his meeting with the Colombian foreign minister on 13 July 2011. [73301]

Mr Hague: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 448W.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72471]

Mr Bellingham: The Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) role and CSA Office were created on 5 August 2009.

Resource budget allocations for the CSA Office in relevant financial years were as follows:

	£
2009-10	15,000
2010-11	18,300
2011-12	20,000

The CSA Office is staffed by one full-time D6/Grade 7 officer and 50% of one A2/AO PA. Average salaries for these grades in relevant years were:

		£
	Grades	
	A2	D6
2009-10	27,348	61,193
2010-11	28,732	64,842
2011-12	28,405	64,677

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72472]

Mr Bellingham: Professor David Clary FRS was appointed as the first Foreign and Commonwealth Office Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) on 5 August 2009.

Working 40% full-time equivalent at SMS3/SCS3 level, Professor Clary's total FCO salary paid for relevant years was as follows:

	£
2009 (August 5) to 2010 (April 5)	32,800
2010-11	49,200
2011-12	49,200

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's Chief Scientific Adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72473]

Mr Bellingham: The Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) Office was established on 5 August 2009, the same date that Professor David Clary FRS took up his role as Foreign and Commonwealth Office CSA.

The CSA himself is 40% full-time equivalent at SMS3/SCS3 level, and is supported by one full-time D6/Grade 7 officer and 50% of an A2/AO PA. This staffing level has remained unchanged since the CSA Office was established.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72474]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have any agencies, non department public bodies or contractors dedicated to the provision of scientific advice. It requires all its contractors and service providers to meet appropriate standards as regards qualifications, best practice and quality assurance. An appropriate standard for scientific advice would be the Government Chief Scientific Adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making".

Ministerial Visits

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have visited the institutions of the *(a)* European Union, *(b)* World Trade Organisation, *(c)* United Nations, *(d)* International Monetary Fund and *(e)* Commonwealth in each year since 2005. [72946]

Mr Lidington: The previous Government published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office publishes information on ministerial travel at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality/

on a quarterly basis.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72934]

Mr Lidington: This information is not held centrally and is only available at disproportionate cost.

Detainees

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests he received from hon. Members for assistance from his Department to bring to trial constituents detained in other countries in each of the last 10 years. [73559]

Mr Jeremy Browne: This information is not centrally held and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and our consular directorate in London continue to welcome contact from hon. Members in relation to constituents or family members of constituents detained abroad. Supporting British nationals who are detained abroad is a vital part of the work of the FCO. This support is explained in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide", which is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/publications

Dubai: Detainees

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hon. Members wrote to him about constituents detained and awaiting trial in Dubai in each of the last 10 years. [73558]

Mr Jeremy Browne: This information is not centrally held and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and our consular directorate in London continue to welcome contact from hon. Members in relation to constituents or family members of constituents detained in Dubai. Supporting British nationals who are detained abroad is a vital part of the work of the FCO. This support is explained in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide", which is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/publications

Indian Subcontinent: Human Rights

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he received from *(a)* the Indian Government, *(b)* the Pakistani Government, *(c)* human rights organisations and *(d)* individuals prior to the debate on Human Rights on the Indian Subcontinent on 15 September 2011. [73571]

Alistair Burt: Prior to the debate on 15 September, I received no representations from the Indian or Pakistani Governments. No representations were received from human rights organisations. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did however receive inquiries about the nature of the debate from media organisations. No information was passed to such organisations ahead of the debate.

Kashmir: Foreign Relations

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on Kashmir; and if he will make a statement. [73264]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) regularly speaks to his United States, Indian and Pakistani counterparts about regional issues including relations between India and Pakistan. With the United States and EU we recognise the importance of finding a lasting solution to the situation in Kashmir but it is not for third parties to prescribe one. It is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Kashmir: Human Rights

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on respect for human rights in Kashmir; and if he will make a statement. [73572]

Alistair Burt: While the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has not had recent discussions on human rights in Kashmir, the issue of security legislation operating in certain regions of India was raised with the Indian Government during the recent EU-India Human Rights dialogue.

Ian Austin: (1) To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Indian Government on respect for human rights in Indian-administered Kashmir; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of any such discussions. [73576]

(2) what discussions he has had with human rights organisations on respect for human rights in Indian-administered Kashmir. [73577]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the response the Minister of State, my noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford, gave in the other place to an oral question on 12 July 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 597.

We recognise there are human rights concerns in both Indian and Pakistan-administered Kashmir and we followed the widely reported violent unrest in Indian-administered Kashmir last year. During a recent visit to Indian administered Kashmir, officials from our high commission in New Delhi discussed the issue of detentions with the Jammu and Kashmir state police and human rights groups. The issue of security legislation operating in certain regions of India, was raised with the Indian Government during the recent EU-India Human Rights dialogue.

We are closely following the work of the three interlocutors to help resolve the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir. We continue to call for an improvement in the human rights situation on both sides of the Line of Control and for an end to external support for violence in Kashmir. Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss India-Pakistan relations, including Kashmir with their counterparts in both countries.

Kashmir: Peacekeeping Operations

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to help achieve a long-term peace in Kashmir. [73570]

Alistair Burt: As I said during the debate on Human Rights on the Indian subcontinent on 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1290-91:

> "The position of successive British Governments has consistently been that any resolution must be for India and Pakistan to agree, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. As India and Pakistan are currently making efforts to build confidence in all aspects of their relationship, I believe it is important that they be given space to determine the scope and pace of that dialogue. No matter how well intentioned, any attempts by the UK or other third parties to mediate or prescribe solutions would hinder progress.
>
> Our officials in our high commissions regularly discuss and regularly raise difficult issues in Kashmir with both the Indian and Pakistani Governments and with contacts in those areas. Our resources from the conflict pool also support work promoting human rights, conflict prevention and peace-building efforts".

Libya: UN Resolutions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his counterparts in (i) France and (ii) the US and *(b)* the Libyan National Transitional Council on the inclusion of women in the Paris conference and follow-up meetings in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. [72609]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 11 October 2011]:* The Prime Minister emphasised the importance the Government attaches to women's rights in his speech to the UN

General Assembly on the 22 September. The Government have stressed to the National Transitional Council repeatedly the importance of establishing an inclusive interim government that includes women and ensures their full participation in a new Libyan society. The Government are committed to their obligations under UNSCR 1325, and are working to determine what bilateral support the UK can provide the new Libyan Government.

Middle East: Detainees

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hon. Members requested assistance from his Department for constituents detained without trial in countries in the middle east in each of the last 10 years. [73557]

Mr Jeremy Browne: This information is not centrally held and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and our consular directorate in London continue to welcome contact from hon. Members in relation to constituents or family members of constituents detained in the middle east. Supporting British nationals who are detained abroad is a vital part of the work of the FCO. This support is explained in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide", which is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/publications

North Korea: Detainees

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the case of the family of Dr Oh Kil-nam, believed to have been detained in Yodok prison camp in North Korea. [73541]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of the case of Dr Oh Kil-nam's family, which was also recently raised in the South Korean media. If the media reports are correct, such cases are a clear reminder of why North Korea remains a country of concern on the Foreign and Commonwealth's annual Human Rights Report. We use every opportunity to raise our concerns with the North Korean Government directly.

Palestinians: United Nations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to support the Palestinian Authority's efforts to be recognised as a sovereign, independent and contiguous state by the United Nations. [72157]

Alistair Burt: The Prime Minister has made the UK's position on recognition of a Palestinian state clear: a Palestinian state is a legitimate goal, and the best way of achieving this is through a comprehensive agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The UK is fully committed to supporting the Palestinian Authority state building plan and helping build the institutions of a future Palestinian state.

We do not anticipate an imminent vote in the UN Security Council on the membership application by Palestinian President Abbas. Whether the membership committee returns the issue to the Security Council, or whether President Abbas decides to turn to the General Assembly, the UK will use its vote in a way that increases the likelihood of a return to meaningful negotiations.

Bringing the parties back to negotiations remains our focus. The Quartet statement agreed on 23 September provides a clear timetable. This is a welcome step which we hope provides a basis for the two sides to come back to the table.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Sri Lanka on the independence of the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission; and what assessment his Department has made of the prospects that the Commission will meet the deadline of November 2011 to produce its final report. [73466]

Alistair Burt: We share international concern about the credibility of the Lessons Learned Reconciliation Commission's (LLRC) process. In my calls with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and during the visit of the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Mr Fox), we encouraged the Sri Lankan Government to use the LLRC to address past allegations effectively. The LLRC was originally due to report in November 2010, later extended to May 2011. Now we await its final report on 15 November 2011.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on protection for witnesses and victims appearing before the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission. [73467]

Alistair Burt: Sri Lanka does not have a functioning witness protection system and the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) did not establish any separate procedures. Unidentified plain-clothed individuals reportedly photographed civilians who testified during its public hearings, which ran from August 2010 to March 2011. Despite this, a number of affected civilians gave evidence. The majority were concerned about locating disappeared and missing relatives.

Our high commission in Colombo raised concerns with the Sri Lankan Government over witness protection for those appearing before the LLRC on a number of occasions and continues to follow closely the Commission's work.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73982]

Mr Lidington: This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

West Bank: Schools

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on the proposed demolition of the school in Khan al Ahmar, west bank; [73585]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effects on the Bedouin population in the west bank of demolitions of homes and schools by Israel. [73586]

Alistair Burt: Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development (DFID) officials most recently visited the Khan al Ahmar school for the Bedouin Jahilin community on 6 October. They discussed with Palestinian and UN officials how to respond to this threat of action that would be illegal under international humanitarian law and that would affect the human rights of the children attending the school and their communities.

Our ambassador to Israel raised this issue with the Israeli Defence Minister Barak on 5 October, as well as with the chief aide to Education Minister Saar.

The UK has a long-standing policy of lobbying hard on issues relating to demolitions and settlement building, and we will continue to do so. We view any attempts to change the facts on the ground as a serious provocation likely to prompt tensions between communities and cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians. We view such steps as harmful to the peace process and in contravention of international law.

We continue to follow this case actively.

JUSTICE

Bill of Rights Commission: European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the Bill of Rights Commission's interim proposals on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights; and which recommendations from the Commission the Government plans to accept; [72243]

(2) what the Government's plans are for reforming *(a)* the European Court of Human Rights and *(b)* the European Convention on Human Rights; and if he will make a statement. [72244]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government welcome the Commission's interim advice on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights.

Our top priority when we take over the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe will be to deliver a key stage of the reform process that has been ongoing for some years. The Court must focus on the most important cases and have proper regard to the judgment of national Parliaments and courts. It must operate more effectively and efficiently as a proper safeguard against human rights abuses.

The way the Court works is set out in the Convention, so reform could involve changes to the Convention only if all 47 member states of the Council of Europe agree to it. We will be negotiating and seeking to agree a package of reforms with all member states during our chairmanship, and will take into account the recommendations in the Commission's advice.

The Government will inform the House of their full plans for the UK chairmanship of the Council of Europe in due course.

Civil Disorder

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged under-18 years in each ethnic group have been imprisoned *(a)* on remand and *(b)* under sentence in connection with the public disorder of August 2011. [73818]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has published frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

A more detailed release was published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given, and previous criminal history. This can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11.htm

A further publication is planned for the last week of October will cover wider socio-economic and demographic characteristics, including ethnicity information.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* number of claims and *(b)* total value of claims paid to residents of the City of Nottingham through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme was in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [73640]

Mr Djanogly: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) has defined Nottingham as any street with a postcode in the range NG1 to NG16 for the purposes of gathering the data for this answer. Applicants sometimes do not give CICA their postcode and such applicants do not appear in these data.

CICA received 853 claims from Nottingham residents in the 2010-11 financial year.

CICA paid 851 Nottingham residents a total of £2,268,529 in compensation in the 2010-11 financial year. This reflects claims finalised in 2010-11, a proportion of which will have been lodged in previous years, so does not cover the same cases mentioned at the first part of the answer.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which local authorities are piloting new ways to share data and increase electoral registration; and when the pilots will finish. [72024]

Mr Harper: I have been asked to reply.

22 data matching pilot schemes are under way, two of which (Lothian Valuation Joint Board and Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board) include more than one local authority. These local authorities are testing the usefulness of matching their electoral registers against a selection of public databases to identify people missing from the register or entries on the register that may be inaccurate or fraudulent. The ability of a local authority to provide its data for the purposes of the data matching schemes ends on 30 November 2011. The Electoral Commission will evaluate each scheme by 1 March 2012.

The participating local authorities are:

Borough of Blackpool
Borough of Colchester
Lothian Valuation Joint Board (City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian)
District of Forest of Dean
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Newham
Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board (Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde)
Borough of Rushmoor
London Borough of Southwark
City of Sunderland
Borough of Wigan
County of Wiltshire
London Borough of Camden
District of Forest Heath
City of Glasgow
City of Manchester
City of Peterborough
County of Shropshire
District of Stratford-on-Avon
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Teignbridge
City of Wolverhampton

Judicial Review: Public Sector

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of applications for judicial review that were *(a)* received, *(b)* granted and *(c)* refused on matters relating to the awarding of public sector contracts in each of the last three years. [72254]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service does not keep statistics on judicial reviews according to the nature of the review requested, such as the awarding of public sector contracts.

In order to provide the information requested it would require a trawl through judicial review case files for the period in question to identify those that relate to public sector contracts—which is cost prohibitive.

Polygamy

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many polygamous households exist in the UK; and what steps are being taken to reduce the number of such households. [73633]

Mr Djanogly: Polygamous marriages cannot be legally formed in the UK. Nor is it possible for anyone domiciled in the United Kingdom to enter into a polygamous marriage abroad. Where a polygamous marriage is contracted outside the United Kingdom between parties, neither of whom is domiciled in the United Kingdom, it will be recognised.

The Office for National Statistics produces estimates of the population by marital status. These estimates cover single (never married), married, widowed and divorced statuses. No assessment is made of the number of polygamous households.

There is some anecdotal evidence of people entering into polygamous marriage in the UK through religious ceremonies that are not registered by the state and are not recognised under UK law. Due to the fact that these marriages are not legally recognised there is no indication of how many such polygamous relationships exist. Any parties to such relationships do not share the same rights as a legally married couple, such as access to financial remedies available on divorce or inheritance rights on the death of one of the spouses, and are treated as cohabitants. The Government have carried out some work with the Muslim community to encourage mosques to undertake the civil aspects of marriage and to raise awareness of the need for marriages to be legally recognised.

Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* certified normal accommodation and *(b)* operational capacity was of each prison and young offenders establishment on (i) 1 January 2008, (ii) 1 January 2009, (iii) 1 January 2010, (iv) 1 January 2011 and (v) 1 October 2011. [73759]

Mr Blunt: This information is not available in the format requested. The total certified normal accommodation and operational capacity of each establishment in the National Offender Management Service custodial estate is published for the last working Friday of every month. Figures for the last working Friday in December 2007, December 2008, December 2009, December 2010 and September 2011 are set out in the following tables. This information is published monthly on the MOJ website via the attached link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/prison-population-figures/index.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

	Friday 28 December 2007		*Friday 19 December 2008*	
Establishment	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*
Acklington/Castington	1,282	1,292	1,346	1,356
Altcourse	794	1,288	794	1,324

	Friday 28 December 2007		Friday 19 December 2008	
Establishment	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*
Ashfield	400	400	400	400
Ashwell	534	544	599	619
Askham Grange	126	128	126	128
Aylesbury	437	444	437	444
Bedford	322	494	322	506
Belmarsh	799	909	800	910
Birmingham	1,121	1,450	1,109	1,450
Blantyre House	122	122	122	122
Blundeston	421	466	481	526
Brinsford	473	489	545	569
Bristol	420	606	424	614
Brixton	606	798	606	798
Bronzefield	450	465	450	465
Buckley Hall	350	385	346	381
Bullingdon	759	963	879	1,114
Bullwood Hall	170	184	180	228
Bure	—	—	—	—
Canterbury	196	294	195	314
Cardiff	524	754	548	824
Channings Wood	698	731	696	729
Chelmsford	541	695	541	695
Coldingley	370	392	494	513
Cookham Wood	17	17	90	102
Dartmoor	619	646	629	656
Deerbolt	447	452	453	453
Doncaster	771	1,146	771	1,146
Dorchester	143	257	145	259
Dovegate	800	860	800	860
Downview	358	358	359	359
Drake Hall	315	315	315	315
Durham	591	981	594	985
East Sutton Park	98	100	98	100
Eastwood Park	326	362	326	362
Erlestoke	410	410	470	470
Everthorpe	603	689	603	689
Exeter	316	533	316	533
Featherstone	663	679	663	687
Feltham	762	762	762	762
Ford	541	541	557	557
Forest Bank	800	1,124	800	1,160
Foston Hall	283	290	283	291
Frankland	732	749	733	750
Full Sutton	600	612	592	604
Garth	812	812	812	847
Gartree	570	575	645	650
Glen Parva	668	808	668	808
Gloucester	225	321	225	321
Grendon/Spring Hill	548	548	533	533
Guys Marsh	520	578	520	578
Hatfield	260	260	260	260
Haverigg	622	635	622	644
Hewell	1,178	1,427	1,173	1,431
High Down	821	925	999	1,103
Highpoint (North and South)	1,158	1,187	1,213	1,237

	Friday 28 December 2007		Friday 19 December 2008	
Establishment	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*
Hindley	523	523	515	515
Hollesley Bay	330	330	345	345
Holloway	498	501	500	500
Holme House	857	994	857	994
Hull	723	1,040	723	1,044
Huntercombe	360	365	360	365
Isis	—	—	—	—
Isle of Wight	1,502	1,627	1,535	1,658
Kennet	175	342	174	341
Kingston	199	200	175	175
Kirkham	590	590	590	590
Kirklevington Grange	223	223	283	283
Lancaster	96	177	159	243
Lancaster Farms	480	527	480	517
Latchmere House	207	207	207	207
Leeds	678	1,000	780	1,084
Leicester	210	392	210	392
Lewes	458	558	623	723
Leyhill	512	512	512	512
Lincoln	436	738	432	730
Lindholme	930	990	922	1,010
Littlehey	663	706	663	726
Liverpool	1160	1,439	1,166	1,445
Long Lartin	426	464	452	499
Low Newton	291	328	298	336
Lowdham Grange	640	680	640	690
Maidstone	451	482	451	482
Manchester	954	1,269	948	1,269
Moorland	740	791	740	794
Morton Hall	392	392	392	392
Mount	747	764	747	768
New Hall	393	443	393	447
North Sea Camp	306	306	318	318
Northallerton	153	252	147	252
Norwich	447	557	447	557
Nottingham	379	550	379	550
Onley	640	640	640	640
Parc	838	1,138	838	1,200
Pentonville	799	1,152	813	1,152
Peterborough (Male and Female)	840	1,008	840	1008
Portland	519	557	579	624
Preston	429	750	453	800
Ranby	912	1,038	969	1,098
Reading	182	287	186	289
Risley	1,050	1,095	1,050	1,095
Rochester	392	392	626	626
Rye Hill	600	600	600	664
Send	216	216	278	278
Sheppey	1,968	2,222	1,966	2,220
Shepton Mallet	165	189	165	189
Shrewsbury	175	328	177	332
Stafford	680	680	721	721
Stocken	715	742	779	816
Stoke Heart	516	632	574	676
Styal	450	460	450	460
Sudbury	563	571	581	581

Establishment	*Friday 28 December 2007*		*Friday 19 December 2008*	
	Certified normal accommodation	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*
Swansea	240	422	240	422
Swinfen Hall	600	620	604	624
Thorn Cross	322	321	322	322
Usk/Prescoed	317	428	317	428
Verne	560	595	560	595
Wakefield	748	751	748	751
Wandsworth	965	1,475	1,086	1,644
Warren Hill	222	222	222	222
Wayland	657	717	955	1,017
Wealstun	885	907	505	527
Wellingborough	636	646	638	646
Werrington	160	162	160	162
Wetherby	360	384	342	374
Whatton	758	821	776	841
Whitemoor	464	458	464	458
Winchester	380	544	499	706
Wolds	320	380	320	395
Woodhill	641	807	641	819
Wormwood Scrubs	1,173	1,256	1,176	1,277
Wymott	1,005	1,062	1,081	1,144

Establishment	*Friday 18 December 2009*		*Friday 31 December 2010*		*Friday 30 September 2011*	
	Certified normal accommodation	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*
Acklington/Castington	1,346	1,356	1,353	1,355	1,297	1,299
Altcourse	794	1,324	794	1,324	794	1,204
Ashfield	400	400	407	360	407	383
Ashwell	184	204	184	214	—	—
Askham Grange	126	128	126	128	126	128
Aylesbury	437	444	421	444	424	444
Bedford	321	506	321	506	322	506
Belmarsh	800	902	800	933	800	957
Birmingham	1,109	1,450	1,088	1,450	1,093	1,450
Blantyre House	122	122	122	122	122	122
Blundeston	481	526	409	454	409	454
Brinsford	545	569	545	577	545	577
Bristol	424	614	420	606	412	622
Brixton	606	798	530	798	530	798
Bronzefield	470	485	527	527	527	527
Buckley Hall	350	385	350	385	410	445
Bullingdon	879	1,114	879	1,114	879	1,114
Bullwood Hall	220	228	220	228	220	228
Bure	120	120	503	523	503	523
Canterbury	195	314	195	314	195	314
Cardiff	548	824	554	824	539	814
Channings Wood	696	729	698	731	698	731
Chelmsford	554	695	554	695	554	747
Coldingley	494	513	494	513	494	513
Cookham Wood	120	120	143	143	143	143
Dartmoor	582	609	493	514	501	522
Deerbolt	513	513	513	513	513	513
Doncaster	771	1,146	713	1,145	713	1,145
Dorchester	137	259	146	260	146	260
Dovegate	1,060	1,120	1,060	1,180	1,060	1,135
Downview	358	359	291	291	291	291
Drake Hall	315	315	315	315	315	315

Establishment	*Friday 18 December 2009*		*Friday 31 December 2010*		*Friday 30 September 2011*	
	Certified normal accommodation	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*
Durham	606	1,011	606	1,014	606	1,017
East Sutton Park	98	100	98	100	98	100
Eastwood Park	326	362	333	363	333	363
Erlestoke	470	470	370	370	494	494
Everthorpe	603	689	603	689	603	689
Exeter	315	537	316	545	316	545
Featherstone	642	655	642	655	671	687
Feltham	762	762	762	762	762	762
Ford	557	557	557	557	521	521
Forest Bank	914	1,274	1,064	1,424	1,064	1,364
Foston Hall	283	291	283	298	290	310
Frankland	859	859	859	859	844	844
Full Sutton	591	603	596	608	596	608
Garth	812	847	812	847	811	846
Gartree	689	689	677	677	677	677
Glen Parva	668	808	652	808	649	808
Gloucester	225	321	225	321	213	321
Grendon/Spring Hill	553	553	573	573	571	571
Guys Marsh	520	578	452	509	452	509
Hatfield	260	260	260	260	260	260
Haverigg	622	644	622	644	622	644
Hewell	1,173	1,431	1,173	1,431	1,003	1,261
High Down	999	1,103	999	1,103	999	1,103
Highpoint (North and South)	1,299	1,323	1,299	1,323	1,299	1,323
Hindley	440	440	440	440	440	440
Hollesley Bay	345	345	365	365	365	365
Holloway	496	496	531	531	533	591
Holme House	857	994	1,034	1,212	1,034	1,212
Hull	723	1,044	723	1,044	723	1,044
Huntercombe	360	365	275	275	370	370
Isis	—	—	252	252	478	622
Isle of Wight	1,562	1,698	1,569	1,705	1,550	1,686
Kennet	175	342	175	342	175	342
Kingston	199	199	199	199	199	199
Kirkham	590	590	592	592	592	592
Kirklevington Grange	283	283	283	283	283	283
Lancaster	159	243	161	243	—	—
Lancaster Farms	480	530	480	530	480	530
Latchmere House	207	207	207	207	—	—
Leeds	829	1,154	776	1,088	792	1,120
Leicester	210	392	210	392	210	398
Lewes	623	723	495	507	624	714
Leyhill	532	532	530	530	523	523
Lincoln	436	738	427	729	427	729
Lindholme	930	1,010	914	994	930	1,010
Littlehey	663	726	1,143	1,206	1,023	1,086
Liverpool	1,176	1,449	1,157	1,423	1,176	1,448
Long Lartin	622	622	622	622	622	622
Low Newton	269	307	259	282	298	336
Lowdham Grange	640	690	900	930	900	920
Maidstone	565	600	565	600	565	600
Manchester	949	1,268	949	1,268	917	1,256
Moorland	727	772	453	486	633	681
Morton Hall	392	392	392	392	—	—
Mount	747	768	747	768	747	768
New Hall	393	447	392	446	392	446
North Sea Camp	318	318	318	318	378	378
Northallerton	147	252	142	242	146	252
Norwich	625	767	625	767	625	767

Establishment	*Friday 18 December 2009*		*Friday 31 December 2010*		*Friday 30 September 2011*	
	Certified normal accommodation	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Operational capacity*
Nottingham	379	550	723	1,060	723	1,060
Onley	710	710	710	710	710	710
Parc	838	1,200	946	1,258	1,170	1474
Pentonville	909	1,272	909	1,272	915	1310
Peterborough (Male and Female)	840	1,008	840	1,008	840	1,008
Portland	535	555	463	483	464	505
Preston	453	842	453	840	455	842
Ranby	969	1,098	892	1,098	892	1,098
Reading	190	293	190	293	190	293
Risley	1,050	1,095	1,050	1,095	1,050	1,095
Rochester	724	724	649	649	664	664
Rye Hill	600	664	600	625	600	625
Send	282	282	282	282	282	282
Sheppey	2,007	2,259	2,501	2,810	2,519	2,828
Shepton Mallet	165	189	165	189	165	189
Shrewsbury	184	340	184	340	182	340
Stafford	741	741	725	741	725	741
Stocken	779	816	779	842	839	902
Stoke Heart	576	692	634	750	634	750
Styal	448	458	451	460	450	459
Sudbury	581	581	581	581	581	581
Swansea	230	402	240	428	240	445
Swinfen Hall	604	654	604	654	604	654
Thorn Cross	322	322	322	322	322	322
Usk/Prescoed	320	434	335	449	357	481
Verne	572	595	571	606	572	607
Wakefield	750	750	748	750	749	749
Wandsworth	1,107	1,665	1,107	1,665	1101	1,665
Warren Hill	222	222	128	128	128	128
Wayland	957	1,017	957	1,017	958	1,017
Wealstun	505	527	810	832	810	832
Wellingborough	638	646	514	522	580	588
Werrington	160	162	160	160	160	160
Wetherby	408	408	384	384	393	393
Whatton	734	821	776	841	776	841
Whitemoor	464	448	452	452	458	458
Winchester	499	706	499	706	499	706
Wolds	320	395	320	395	320	360
Woodhill	656	819	656	819	656	840
Wormwood Scrubs	1,176	1,281	1,176	1,281	1,116	1,221
Wymott	1,081	1,144	1,113	1,176	1,113	1,176

Prison: Video Linkup

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many days the video linkup system at Peterborough Prison has been fully operational in the last three months; and what assessment he has made of the costs to the justice system of the system not being fully operational. [73772]

Mr Blunt: The Prison Court Video Link (PCVL) system at HMP Peterborough underwent necessary repair during the period from late August to early October 2011. This led to less usage of the system while these repairs were undertaken. The system is now fully operational.

The following table provides a comparison of the PCVL usage at HMP Peterborough during the three months July 2011 to September 2011.

2011	*Number of occasions PCVL used at HMP Peterborough*
July	49
August	50
September	30

It is not possible to predict the exact cost that would have been saved on extra prisoner escorts while the system was being repaired, as the number of usages can vary month on month. However, as an indication, we calculate that the saving made by using PCVL instead of escorts to court in July 2011, the last full month when the system was fully operational, was £16,400 for the 49 occasions used. September's lower usage of 30 occasions is therefore likely to have saved around 39% less than normal expectations.

Prisons: Contracts for services

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department paid to the contractors running *(a)* HMP Doncaster, *(b)* HMP Peterborough, *(c)* HMP Lowdham Grange, *(d)* HMP Bronzefield, *(e)* HMP Ashfield, *(f)* HMP Parc, *(g)* HMP Altcourse, *(h)* HMP Forest Bank, *(i)* HMP Wolds, *(j)* HMP Dovegate, *(k)* HMP Birmingham, *(l)* HMP Featherstone and *(m)* HMP Rye Hill in the financial year (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13. [73847]

Mr Blunt: The information requested by the right hon. Member is provided in the following table. The values quoted are based on the invoiced amounts paid to contractors. The same actual invoiced amounts for financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 are therefore not available at present.

Name of prison	*2010-11 (£)*
HMP Altcourse	47,349,574
HMP Ashfield	24,929,971
HMP Bronzefield	26,691,539
HMP Doncaster	24,143,901
HMP Dovegate	36,986,311
HMP Forest Bank	36,394,936
HMP Lowdham Grange	25,744,375
HMP Parc	46,515,892
HMP Peterborough	31,901,497
HMP Rye Hill	18,244,416
HMP Wolds	9,195,005

HMP Birmingham only very recently transferred operations across to the new contractor (from 1 October 2011), and as yet no funds have been paid against invoices.

HMP Featherstone is due to receive its first prisoners in April 2012 and so no invoices have been paid to the contractor to date.

Tribunals Service

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what resources he has allocated to the Tribunals Service to reduce the number of cases waiting to be heard in the latest period for which figures are available; [73568]

(2) how many people were employed by the Tribunals Service to hear appeals in each of the last five years. [73569]

Mr Djanogly: In April 2011, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) was created, bringing together Courts and Tribunals into one organisation.

The total gross operational budget for the tribunal element of HMCTS for 2011-12 is £279.4 million. The allocated funding has not been assigned specifically for cases waiting to be heard but on sitting levels needed to achieve the optimum level of performance.

In 2009-10, there was an average of 1,519 full-time equivalent tribunal panel members. In 2010-11 there was an average of 1,620 full-time equivalent tribunal panel members. The method of calculating 'Full Time Equivalent' members changed in 2010-11 and while the 2009-10 figures have been restated in line with this change, earlier figures have not been recalculated and are, therefore, not available.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in how many cases on appeal dealt with by the Tribunals Service decisions were overturned in the latest period for which figures are available; [73564]

(2) what the average length of time was for which a person waited to have their case heard by the Tribunals Service in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many people waited longer than *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months; [73565]

(3) how many cases were waiting to be heard by the Tribunals Service on the most recent date for which figures are available. [73566]

Mr Djanogly: In April 2011, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) was created, bringing together Courts and Tribunals into one organisation.

There are, including the Upper Tribunal Chambers, 35 Tribunal jurisdictions within HMCTS. The information requested for all Tribunals could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The three largest jurisdictions within HMCTS—social security and child support, immigration and asylum and employment tribunals—accounted for 93% of receipts for the business year 2010-11. Information has, therefore, been provided for these jurisdictions.

(1) The following table shows the number of cases (or jurisdictional complaints for employment tribunals) found in favour of the appellant for the full year, 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 and for 1 April to 30 June 2011.

Number of successful cases: 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 and for 1 April to 30 June 2011

Tribunal	*1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011*	*1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011*
Social security and child support	96,000 (35%)	28,900 (35%)
Employment tribunals	[1]28,100 (12%)	6,000 (11%)
Immigration and asylum	[2]62,800 (41%)	13,000 (39%)

[1] This is the number of employment tribunal jurisdictional claims that were disposed of and found to be successful (in favour of the claimant) at a tribunal and excludes settlements. A claim can contain a number of grounds, known as jurisdictional complaints. In any hearing, the tribunal has to decide upon the merits of the claim made under each jurisdiction.

[2] Based on decisions at hearing and on the papers.

Employment tribunals determine disputes between employers and employees over employment rights. As party *v.* party tribunals, employment tribunals differ from all other administrative tribunals.

HMCTS publishes statistical information (the latest to 30 June 2011) at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/tribunals/quarterly.htm

In addition, details of the social security and child support tribunal's performance is also published monthly, most recently to 31 August 2011.

(2) It has not been possible to collate the average waiting for employment tribunals and immigration and asylum cases within the time frame required for this answer. However, I will write to the hon. Member to provide the information once it has been collated.

The average waiting time for the social security and child support (SSCS) tribunal measures the time from the receipt of the appeal in the tribunal to the time of its disposal. In August 2011, the average clearance time from receipt to disposal for all SSCS benefits combined was 24.4 weeks.

The following table shows the percentage of cases disposed of in April to June 2011, aged more than six months and more than 12 months old[1].

Percentage of cases aged more than six months and 12 months

Tribunal	Percentage of cases disposed of aged more than six months old	Percentage of cases disposed of aged more than 12 months old
Social security and child support	40	5
Employment tribunals:	58	38
singles	35	14
multiples	83	65
Immigration and asylum	17	1

The measures cannot be directly compared between one tribunal and another because of different processes.

(3) Information is not collected on the number of cases waiting to be heard. The following table shows the caseload outstanding at 30 June 2011.

Caseload outstanding 30 June

Tribunal	Caseload outstanding at 30 June 2011
Social security and child support	179,700
Employment tribunals	503,100
Immigration and asylum	34,500

Approximately three-fifths of the outstanding employment tribunal caseload related to 'multiple' claims (collections of two or more of these cases are grouped and managed together). They are often legally and factually complex and at any point in time it is common for such cases to be 'stayed', meaning that they are not ready to have a final hearing at that time for some reason—for example due to awaiting the decision of an appellate court on case management or other interim matters.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were employed by the Tribunals Service to deal with appeals against work capability assessment decisions in each month of *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [72788]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves.

It is not possible to identify how many staff deal specifically with ESA appeals. The following table shows the number of staff employed by the Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) tribunal (the lowest level to which the figures can be broken down) as at the end of each month between January 2010 and June 2011 (the latest period for which published figures are available). The tribunal hears appeals on a range of benefits, of which ESA is one. There was an increase in headcount of 236 over the time period. Of this, 68 were permanent staff and 168 staff on fixed term contracts. HMCTS disposed of 37,200 SSCS appeals in June 2011, up 55% from 24,100 in January 2010.

Social Security and Child Support tribunal staff numbers January 2010 to June 2011

	Number of staff[1]
January 2010	794
February 2010	791
March 2010	789
April 2010	786
May 2010	800
June 2010	815
July 2010	824
August 2010	847
September 2010	847
October 2010	886
November 2010	891
December 2010	912
January 2011	958
February 2011	958
March 2011	984
April 2011	1,013
May 2011	1,029
June 2011	1,030

[1] The data are taken from management information. The figures quoted refer to the total number of people employed and include those who work part-time or on a full-time basis and on temporary or fixed-term contacts. Some of the staff included may work in multi-jurisdictional centres dealing with other work as well as social security and child support appeals.

Wormwood Scrubs: BBC

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 632W, on Wormwood Scrubs: BBC, what reasons have been given for the delay from the BBC and Mentorn in making the payment. [72241]

Mr Blunt: We have not sought clarification from Mentorn about the time it took for the invoice to be paid. We have received the payment in full and are satisfied with this transaction.

Youth Justice Board

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget he has allocated to the Youth Justice Board for *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [73789]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board received the following amounts of grant in aid funding from the Ministry of Justice:

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[1] These data reflect the age of the case at the time that it was disposed—the best data we have at this time to reflect "waiting" times.

(a) 2010-11: £434.17 million

(b) 2011-12: £389.939 million

(c) 2012-13: We have provided the YJB with an indicative allocation of £384.973 million. This figure is still under review and will not be finalised until the beginning of the financial year.

The YJB also receives Capital Funding from the MOJ as well as funding from other Government Departments.

Youth Offending Teams

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding youth offending teams received in total in each year since 2007. [71427]

Mr Blunt: Total funding to youth offending teams during each financial year since 2007 is given as follows:

	£
2007-08	343,430,286
2008-09	361,370,945
2009-10	372,071,247

These amounts are different from the totals given in Appendix A, Table A.2 of the published Youth Justice Statistics 2009-10. This is because grants from the YJB for Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS), youth crime prevention, Re-settlement and Aftercare Provision (RAP) and Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) are not included in the total given in Table A.2.

Total funding figures for 2010-11 have not been published yet as they are still undergoing final audit processes prior to publication (scheduled for January 2012).

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK banks which take up their full allocation of European Investment Bank funding; [72719]

(2) what happens to any European Investment Bank funding allocated to UK banks but left unclaimed. [72720]

Justine Greening: In accordance with its statute, the European Investment Bank (EIB) does not make a specific funding allocation to UK banks.

Currently, four UK banks have access to EIB facilities: Barclays, Santander, Royal Bank of Scotland, and Lloyds Banking Group.

Capital Investment: Government Departments

Simon Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Oldham West and Royton (Mr Meacher) of 14 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 701W, how many capital expenditure programmes that have not used the private finance initiative have been undertaken by each Government Department since 1997; what the total monetary value was of such programmes; and if he will place a list of such programmes in the Library. [72239]

Danny Alexander: The majority of capital spending programmes are not funded through private finance initiatives. Each Department will have a list of spending on capital projects, however HM Treasury does not hold a central list of individual capital programmes across Government. Treasury publishes twice yearly the PFI Data Summary of spend on PFI projects. Treasury does not collect information on individual non-PFI spending projects.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Nutrition

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve awareness of *(a)* nutrition and *(b)* agriculture in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [72775]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is committed to long-term efforts to tackle hunger and undernutrition, as captured in our recently published strategy "Scaling Up Nutrition: the UK's position paper on undernutrition". It sets out the steps the Department will take to comprehensively scale up its nutrition programmes over the next four years, reaching 20 million children under the age of five, in addition to humanitarian assistance.

The Government are also working with international partners to address issues of food security. In June, G20 Agriculture Ministers agreed an action plan on food price volatility and agriculture to take forward concrete actions in this area. On the basis of the action plan and through work of international organizations—DFID has taken specific actions including; strengthening research, innovation and dissemination, mobilizing the G20 agriculture research networks and promoting efforts to scale up responsible investments and activities related to agricultural production and food security, in cooperation with the multilateral development banks and the private sector.

EDUCATION

Apprentices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds were undertaking an apprenticeship in each of the last five financial years; and what proportion he expects to participate in an apprenticeship in each year to 2014-15. [72510]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 10 October 2011]:* The following table sets out the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds undertaking apprenticeships using academic years. Figures are not available by financial year. Plans beyond 2011/12 are subject to review and are not yet available.

Participation rates for 16-18-year-olds on apprenticeships, England

	Academic years					
	2006/07	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11 (provisional)*	*2011/12 (projection)*
All 16-18 Apprenticeships (%)	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.1	5.6	6.8
Population	2,013,000	2,018,300	2,023,600	1,992,000	1,947,700	1,905,400

Notes:

1. Age is age at the beginning of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
2. Percentages are based on a snapshot count of what people were participating in at the end of the calendar year, i.e. 2010/11 is based on end 2010 snapshot estimate.
3. Population estimates for academic year ages are derived by DFE from mid-year estimates and projections provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Government Actuary's Department (GAD).
4. 2011/12 snapshot of projections have been derived from the whole year learner volumes published in the 2011-12 16-19 Funding Statement (December 2010) and are currently being reviewed as part of the work for the 2012-13 16-19 Funding Statement which is due to be published in November 2011.
5. Forecasted volume will change as more current data and analysis become available.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72563]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not keep a central record of hourly rates paid to external solicitors and cannot therefore provide average hourly rates.

Where possible, the Department instructs barristers from the Attorney-General's panel of Counsel. Details of barristers who are currently on the panel are available from the Treasury Solicitor's Department website at:

www.tsol.gov.uk/attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

The Attorney-General's panel of Counsel is made up of three London panels which are divided according to experience, as well as a regional panel. The maximum rates paid to barristers on the panels are:

A panel: £120 per hour

B panel: £100 per hour

C panel: £80 per hour

Regional panel: £60 to £110 per hour (depending on experience)

For particularly complex and sensitive matters, the Department instructs First Treasury Counsel. The hourly rate paid to First Treasury Counsel is £220.

The Department is required to seek a nomination from the Attorney-General when it retains leading Counsel. Fees in these cases are individually agreed.

When commissioning external legal advice, the Department uses its internal guidance on the procurement of consultancy services.

For non-contentious matters, the Department instructs solicitors' firms selected from a panel. This panel has been established under a framework agreement to provide legal services to Government bodies and is managed by the Government Procurement Service (formerly known as Buying Solutions). Between the beginning of April 2010 and the end of March 2011, the following sums were paid to panel firms:

	£
Bevan Brittan	989.00
Bird and Bird	12,207.00
Davitt Jones Bould	1,500.60
DLA Piper UK LLP	252,782.70
Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP	62,369.75
Michelmores LLP	70,525.23
Pinsent Masons	174,850.60

The Department does not keep a separate record of the names of external barristers instructed or sums paid. Extracting this information for the period 2010-11 from the Department's central payments system could be done only at disproportionate cost.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations his Department has received from directorates of the European Commission on the UK's carbon floor price. [73751]

Gregory Barker: We are continuing to engage informally with the European Commission as part of our overall policy development related to the Electricity Market Reform proposal.

The EU and the UK share common energy policy objectives. We consider that the approach being adopted under the GB Electricity Market Reform is consistent with the EU's vision for decarbonisation and security of supply. We support full integration of the UK energy market with the wider EU electricity market. We are working with the European Commission and other EU stakeholders to ensure that the Electricity Market Reform package is consistent with, and complementary to, developing EU energy policy.

As set out in chapter 2 of the Government's Electricity Market Reform White Paper, the CPF complements the EU ETS by strengthening the carbon price signal in the UK electricity generation sector, enabling higher levels of investment in low-carbon infrastructure and therefore a faster rate of decarbonisation. Going forward, we would support an EU-wide tightening of the EU ETS in order to meet ambitious carbon emission reduction targets in the EU, and to meet the long-term EU objective of reducing emissions by 80% to 95% by 2050.

Carbon Emissions: Shipping

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he has made on negotiations to apply a carbon price to international shipping emissions. [73584]

Gregory Barker: The UK Government believe that a global emissions trading system that places a price on carbon would be the best way of reducing international shipping emissions effectively and efficiently. We continue to push for progress towards this goal in the International Maritime Organization.

Last year, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), played an active role in the UN Secretary-General's High Level Group on Climate Financing (AGF), which found that applying a carbon price to the international shipping sector could provide a feasible source of climate financing. The UK has been pushing for progress on agreeing these recommendations through the EU, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the G20.

Electricity Generation

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from the European Commission on electricity market reform. [73805]

Charles Hendry: We are continuing to engage informally with the European Commission as part of our overall policy development of the electricity market reform proposals.

Energy Supply: Prices

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how he plans to consult energy-intensive industries prior to the announcement of measures to mitigate the effects on them of introducing carbon price support. [73040]

Gregory Barker: My officials and I are in regular contact with a wide range of energy intensive industries on a bilateral and multi-lateral basis. I visited Germany on 26 and 27 September in the company of UK chief executives to see firsthand how German-based energy intensive industries were operating and to learn how the German Government encourage greater energy efficiency from their energy intensive industries. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), meets energy intensive and other UK industry in the Green Economy Council meetings which he co-chairs with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman).

My officials have met and continue to meet industry both individually and in wider fora. The principal forum for discussing the development of the package of measures to reduce the effects of Government policy on electricity costs for energy-intensive manufacturers whose international competitiveness is most affected by UK energy and climate change policy is the Green Economy Council Energy Intensive Industries sub-group. This comprises representatives of industry, trade associations, trade unions and includes officials from DECC, the Department of Business Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury. The Government plan to announce the details of the package before the end of the year.

Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many community installations accredited for the feed-in-tariff scheme are *(a)* above and *(b)* below 50KW. [72975]

Gregory Barker: At the end of June 2011 there were 494 community installations confirmed onto the Feed-in-Tariffs (FiTs) scheme. Table 1 splits these out into schemes of above and below 50 kilowatts in generation capacity.

Table 1: Numbers of community FiTs installations by technology and size

Technology	*50kW and under*	*Over 50kW*
Hydro	13	1
Photovoltaic	377	0
Wind	100	3
Total	490	4

Since the end of June a further 80 community schemes have been confirmed onto the FiTs scheme. It will be possible to break these down by installed capacity following the publication of the quarterly FiTs statistical publication on 27 October 2011.

Fuel Poverty

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of people aged over 60 in fuel poverty in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Dudley Borough. [73002]

Gregory Barker: The most recent fuel poverty data available for England and the West Midlands is for the year 2009. The most recent local authority level data available is for 2008. Data on fuel poverty are presented in terms of the number of households affected. The data show that:

In 2009, nearly two million households containing someone aged over 60 in England were in fuel poverty. This represents 27% of all households containing someone over 60 in England.

In 2009, 0.3 million households containing someone aged over 60 in the West Midlands were in fuel poverty. This represents 37% of all households containing someone over 60 in the West Midlands.

In 2008, around 26,000 households in the local authority of Dudley were in fuel poverty. This represents 25% of all households in Dudley. Data on fuel poverty amongst over 60s in Dudley is not available.

Oil

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration his further review of regulatory procedures of the UK oil and gas industry will give to the oil leak from Shell's Gannet Alpha platform. [73050]

Charles Hendry: Prompted by the Gulf of Mexico spill last year, the principal focus of the further review of UK oil and gas regulation is around drilling operations, which were not, of course, germane to the Gannet event. Given the ongoing nature of the joint DECC/HSE investigation into Gannet, the regulatory review has not examined the matter in detail and would not, therefore, be in a position to offer detailed observations.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the annual average *(a)* proportion and *(b)* cash amount by which the energy bills of domestic consumers are increased in order to finance and subsidise the provision of renewable energy. [73542]

Charles Hendry: DECC's last published assessment in July 2010, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/price_bill_imp/price_bill_imp.aspx

estimated that the renewables obligation and feed-in-tariff scheme were adding £21 (2%) in total to the average household energy (gas plus electricity) bill in 2010 and this was estimated to increase to £51 (5%) in 2015 and £105 (9%) in 2020 (all in real 2009 prices).

As explained in the July document, these estimates do not take account of the potential offsetting impact from higher levels of renewables pushing down wholesale electricity prices, which previous modelling by Redpoint for DECC suggested could be around £6/MWh on average over the period 2010-20. They also do not take account of changes to energy and climate change policies announced since July 2010.

An updated assessment of the impact of energy and climate change policies on the energy bills faced by households and businesses will be published alongside the next annual energy statement.

Renewables Obligation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Renewables Obligation Certificate banding review; and when he expects his proposed consultation as part of that review to commence. [73954]

Gregory Barker: The first phase of the banding review on renewables costs and deployment potential conducted by DECC for Arup and Ernst and Young has now been completed and the report published on the DECC website. We intend to publish a consultation on the proposed new bands shortly.

The new bands will come into effect on 1 April 2013 (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

Water Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether marine energy projects will be eligible to receive support through his proposed feed-in tariff with contract for difference. [73009]

Gregory Barker: The CfD is being designed to be compatible with all forms of low-carbon generation including marine.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Laws: Regulation

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which laws and regulations have been repealed since May 2010. [73918]

Mr Harper: In the policy areas for which the Deputy Prime Minister has direct responsibility, the Government have brought forward important constitutional and political reforms which have made a number of changes to the statute book. This includes the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 which repealed the Septennial Act 1715.

Recall of Members of Parliament

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 623W, on Recall of Members of Parliament, whether he expects to publish his proposals for recall of hon. Members by their constituents before the Christmas recess. [73952]

Mr Harper: Yes.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Anti-slavery Day

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to mark Anti-slavery Day 2011. [72290]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions has no plans to mark Anti-slavery Day 2011.

Computers

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many laptops were lost by staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and what penalties were imposed on those staff members as a result of the losses. [73636]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows the numbers of laptop computers recorded by the Department as having been lost (or stolen) for the calendar years in question.

	Number
2010	40
2009	30
2008	41
2007	15
2006	28

The Department requires that all its laptop computers are encrypted according to standards prescribed by the central security authorities. Therefore in the event of theft or loss of a laptop computer, the information contained on the hard drive is secure.

The Department formally requires its employees to safeguard all valuable assets, and local management will take firm action where an employee neglects such responsibilities. This type of disciplinary incident is recorded centrally under a broad heading and it is not possible to further break the figures down to identify what action was actually taken in specific cases where employees lost laptops. To attempt to obtain this level of detail would incur disproportionate cost.

Crisis Loans

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 462W, on crisis loans, how much has been repaid against crisis loans made in each year; and after what period outstanding loans are written off. [72154]

Steve Webb: The following table shows how much has been repaid against crisis loans made in each year.

	Amount repaid against crisis loans (£ million)
2008-09	83.10
2009-10	119.4
2010-11	123.7

Notes:
1. The figures are from the annual report by the Secretary of State on the social fund for the relevant year.
2. Examples of when a debt might be written off because there is no prospect of recovery are:
deceased and no estate to recover from
gone abroad
long-term custodial sentence
certain insolvency cases

The social fund does not have a time limit for writing off debt. Unless there is no prospect of recovery, the right to recover social fund loans continues to be exercised until the debt is repaid.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73830]

Chris Grayling: The official DWP commercial policy is that pre-qualification questionnaires are not required for requirements under £100,000.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people living in residential care homes in each local authority claim the mobility component of disability living allowance. [73573]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of total disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available as we are unable to identify accurately disability living allowance claimants who meet the full cost of their residential care.

Estimates of the numbers of mobility component recipients in residential care homes, who are not fully self-funding, are not available other than on a Government Office region wide basis. The information is contained in the following table.

Non self-funded DLA mobility component recipients in residential care

	Number
North East	4,000
North West	8,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,000
East Midlands	6,000
West Midlands	7,000
East of England	7,000
London	8,000
South East	13,000
South West	9,000
Wales	4,000
Scotland	6,000

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to nearest thousand individuals.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, Feb 2011

Disability Premium: Glasgow

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Scotland are currently in receipt of the (i) disability premium and (ii) enhanced disability premium. [73598]

Maria Miller: The information requested is available only in respect of income support and jobseeker's allowance.

Income support/jobseeker's allowance claimants with disabled child premium/enhanced disabled child premium in Glasgow local authority and Scotland—February 2011

	Glasgow local authority	*Scotland*
Income support:		
Disabled child premium	600	2,400
Enhanced disabled child premium	[1]300	1,000
Jobseeker's allowance:		
Disabled child premium	[2]—	[2]—
Enhanced disabled child premium	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Figures of 500 or less are subject to a degree of sampling variation and therefore should be used as a guide only to the correct situation.
[2] Nil or negligible.
Notes:
1. Figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Figures exclude residual minimum income guarantee claimants.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) Information Directorate, 5% samples.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the amount of any personal or occupational pension that is disregarded for the purpose of calculating the amount of money received through contributory employment and support allowance payments. [72091]

Steve Webb: The Secretary of State reviews the level of the deductions from employment and support allowance for occupational and personal pension income as part of the annual uprating exercise.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to his Department of writing to all contributory employment and support allowance claimants in the support group to inform them of the entitlement changes to their benefit. [73575]

Chris Grayling: The Department took a decision to write to claimants who may be affected by proposals in the welfare reform bill to limit the time people can claim contribution based employment and support allowance in the Work Related Activity Group to 12 months. To deliver this letter, DWP recently undertook a scan of its computer records to identify all claimants that are in receipt of contribution-based ESA in the Work Related Activity Group with a view to writing to them. This included all those already in this category on the day the scan was run and those for whom a decision to place in the Work Related Activity Group had been made and input to the IT system with a future start date.

This scan did not identify claimants in the support group, as they will not be affected by the change. As we did not write to this group, no costs were incurred in writing to claimants receiving contribution based employment and support allowance in the Support Group.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he carried out an impact assessment of his proposal not to allow access to employment and support allowance during an appeal period; and what account such an impact assessment took of the potential effect on claimants' health and ability to improve their capacity for work of such a policy; [73604]

(2) how many employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants have had no access to ESA while appealing a decision to end their ESA payments due to a failure to *(a)* return the work capability questionnaire and *(b)* attend an ATOS medical assessment for whatever reason since its inception; [73605]

(3) if he will make it his policy to provide some financial support to claimants who have no access to employment and support allowance while appealing a decision to refuse it. [73606]

Chris Grayling: The current policy is that where an ESA recipient who is found fit for work following a work capability assessment (WCA) subsequently appeals against the decision, they will receive the assessment phase rate of ESA during the appeals process. Therefore, the amount of money the person receives will not change.

Those ESA claimants who appeal the WCA outcome of being placed in the Work Related Activity Group will continue to receive basic-rate ESA plus the work-related activity component until the outcome of the appeal is known.

Where a claimant fails to attend a WCA appointment, benefit entitlement is not automatically withdrawn by a decision maker. It is recognised that there can be genuine reasons for non-attendance, particularly when a claimant's medical condition fluctuates daily to such an extent that it prevents attendance. To identify when such circumstances may apply, a number of provisions and safeguards have been built into the current process.

These provisions ensure decision makers give full consideration to each claimant's particular circumstances before deciding whether benefit entitlement is affected. It is only when a Decision Maker decides a claimant has not shown "good cause" for not attending that entitlement is changed.

Where ESA is disallowed for failing to return the WCA questionnaire or attend for medical examination, ESA is not available pending the outcome of an appeal. This avoids the risk of abuse. If benefit were available in this situation it could be paid indefinitely to people who repeatedly fail to comply. As such, benefit is payable only when the questionnaire is completed and returned or the person attends for examination.

This is different to the situation where a person appeals because they do not agree with a determination, for benefit entitlement purposes, that they do not have limited capability for work. ESA is available in these cases in recognition that people who disagree with the decision that they do not have limited capability for work would not necessarily wish to work, or present themselves as well enough to work, until their appeal had been decided.

The Department does not collect information in respect of the number of ESA claimants whose benefit has ceased as a result of a failure to attend a WCA or return their medical questionnaire.

Employment and Support Allowance: Brighton

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of applications for employment and support allowance made by residents in Brighton and Hove unitary authority area were rejected on the basis of a work capability assessment *(a)* between October 2008 and November 2010 and *(b)* in the latest period which figures are available; and what proportion of such decisions were (i) reversed and (ii) upheld on appeal. [72238]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) using the work capability assessment rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

Table 1 presents data for new ESA claims starting between October 2008 to November 2010 (this is the latest period for which these figures are available) where the claimant has been assessed to be fit for work. Figures are for initial assessments only and numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 1: Fit for work decisions on new ESA claims

	Fit for work	*Percentage of all new ESA claims*[1]
Brighton and Hove UA	1,920	32

[1] Includes claims that are closed before assessment and those still in progress.

If someone is assessed to be fit for work by DWP they are no longer entitled to claim ESA. However, they may ask for a revision and/or they may appeal against the DWP decision.

Table 2 shows appeals heard on fit for work decisions for ESA claims starting between October 2008 and May 2010 (this is the latest period for which these figures are available). Figures are for initial assessments only and numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10 (as a result, summing of rows may not give the totals shown).

Table 2: Appeals heard on fit for work decisions

	Appeals heard	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage DWP decision upheld*
Brighton and Hove UA	740	420	56	330	44

Notes:

1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in July 2011, covers new claimants to ESA for October 2008 to November 2010 (the latest data available) and can be found at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.
3. Data on appeal includes ESA claims up to the end of May 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard to include in the publication) where the person claiming has been assessed to be fit for work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by Tribunals Service.
4. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. Therefore these figures should be treated as emerging findings rather than final at this stage.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants who will qualify for his planned mandatory work activity scheme. [72048]

Chris Grayling: We envisage that mandatory work activity (MWA) will deliver around 19,000 placements per year over the next four years, The scheme is intended to target the small number of JSA claimants who do enough to meet the conditions of their claim while at the same time continually failing to demonstrate the focus and discipline that is a key requirement of finding, securing and retaining employment.

Employment: Young People

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions were issued as a result of a claimant refusing an offer made under the Young Person's Guarantee between April 2010 and March 2011. [73590]

Chris Grayling: The number of sanctions issued as a result of a claimant refusing an offer made under the Community Task Force (CTF), the mandatory strand of the Young Person's Guarantee, between April 2010 and March 2011 was 5,190[1].

From 26 April 2010 all eligible young people were required to take up an offer under the Young Person's Guarantee by the 10 month point of their claim. If they did not take up an offer they were required to take part in the Community Task Force. If they did not take part in this their benefits could be affected. This explains why we have only counted sanctions issued on refusing offers made under the Community Task Force.

[1] Source—DWP Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Housing Benefit

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to allow local authorities to transfer unspent central Government funding provided for the annual allowance for discretionary housing payments into the subsequent financial year. [73589]

Steve Webb: Local authorities were advised in September that any requests to carry forward into 2012/13 funding for discretionary housing payments would be considered, providing they were made by 30 April 2012 when their 2011/12 discretionary housing payments claims were made.

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1173-4W, on industrial health and safety: construction, in what employment sectors each of the duty-holders prosecuted for health and safety offences in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 operated. [73603]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart), on 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 349-50W.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Calls

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what requirements his Department sets in respect of telephone answering timescales; and what proportion of telephone calls breached these requirements in *(a)* local Jobcentre Plus offices and *(b)* national customer services in the latest period for which figures are available. [71880]

Chris Grayling: The Department operates several national customer service lines that carry different targets relating to average speed of answer, and not all of them collate the same amount of information. We have supplied the Percentage of Calls Answered (PCA); the Average Speed of Answer (ASA). Where the data are available, but for some lines only, we have also supplied the percentage of calls answered in 30 seconds.

In addition to the customer service lines for making a claim to benefit or for jobsearch, Jobcentre Plus also operates a switchboard for claimants to contact their local Jobcentre Plus office. This is operated by Balfour Beatty Workplace (BBW) on behalf of the Department. The information that you have requested is not available because BBW does not collate that information.

Jobcentre Plus Lines

The performance measure used is the PCA and the minimum target is to answer 90% of offered calls. This is for all lines except Crisis Loan Decision Making and UK Border Agency where the PCA target is 80% for both.

Please note that the figures for Jobcentre Plus are for August.

First Contact

Of 429,266 calls offered, 392,797 were answered giving a PCA of 91.7%. The ASA was 00:01:46.

Employment Support Allowance

Of 120,653 calls offered, 110,638 were answered giving a PCA of 92.0%. The ASA was 00:01:51.

Crisis Loan Decision Making

Of 513,463 calls offered, 423,486 were answered giving a PCA of 82.7%. The ASA was 00:08:07.

Jobseekers Allowance Enquiries (JSA)

Of 814,068 calls offered, 664,898 were answered giving a PCA of 82.0%. The ASA was 00:04:04.

Income Support Enquiries (IS)

Of 458,010 calls offered, 369,338 were answered giving a PCA of 81.3%. The ASA was 00:03:16.

Incapacity Benefit Enquiries (IB)

Of 117,042 calls offered, 105,728 were answered giving a PCA of 90.7%. The ASA was 00:01:02.

JSA, IS and IB Welsh

Of 219 calls offered, 217 were answered giving a PCA of 99.5%. The ASA was 00:00:01.

Employment Support Allowance Enquiries (ESA)

Of 547,932 calls offered, 448,488 were answered giving a PCA of 82.2%. The ASA was 00:04:49.

IB/IS Reassessment

Of 22,601 calls offered, 20,603 were answered giving a PCA of 91.5%. The ASA was 00:01:36.

ESA Enquiries and IB/IS Reassessment Welsh

Of 128 calls offered, 125 were answered giving a PCA of 97.7%. The ASA was 00:00:05.

Enquire

Of 171,852 calls offered, 161,436 were answered giving a PCA of 94.2%. The ASA was 00:01:01.

Social Fund

Of 346,301 calls offered, 311,828 were answered giving a PCA of 90.4%. The ASA was 00:01:50.

Maternity Allowance

Of 19,685 calls offered, 18,508 were answered giving a PCA of 94.4%. The ASA was 00:00:38.

Maternity Allowance and Social Fund Welsh

Of 60 calls offered, 59 were answered giving a PCA of 98.3%. The ASA was 00:00:01

Social Fund Applications

Of 75,574 calls offered, 67,391 were answered giving a PCA of 89.5%. The ASA was 00:01:41.

Jobseeker Direct

Of 252,965 calls offered, 229,293 were answered giving a PCA of 90.7%. The ASA was 00:00:40.

Employer Direct

Of 68,002 calls offered, 59,757 were answered giving a PCA of 88.1%. The ASA was 00:01:35.

E-Business Operational Support Team (EBOST)

Of 3,444 calls offered, 3,351 were answered giving a PCA of 97.4%. The ASA was 00:00:18.

Small Business Recruitment Helpline

Of 2,485 calls offered, 1,953 were answered giving a PCA of 79.7%. The ASA was 00:01:44.

National Insurance Number Allocations (NINO)

Of 87,896 calls offered, 80,769 were answered giving a PCA of 91.9%. The ASA was 00:00:32.

National Benefit Fraud Hotline

Of 19,189 calls offered, 17,208 were answered giving a PCA of 90.1%. The ASA was 00:00:48.

Self Service Helpline

Of 324 calls offered, 314 were answered giving a PCA of 96.9%. The ASA was 00:00:12.

Tax Evasion Hotline

Of 4,180 calls offered, 3,671 were answered giving a PCA of 88.4%. The ASA was 00:01:11.

International Jobsearch Advice Line

Of 18 calls offered, 17 were answered giving a PCA of 100.0%. (Please note that as no calls were abandoned, and as all calls got through and were answered there would have been a Short Abandoned call ie the caller hanging up after getting through). The ASA was 00:01:21.

Local Authority Fraud Hotline

Of 484 calls offered, 420 were answered giving a PCA of 87.9%. The ASA was 00:00:44.

UK Border Agency

Of 17,096 calls offered, 14,482 were answered giving a PCA of 84.9%. The ASA was 00:02:16.

Jobcentre Plus Total

Of 4,092,937 calls offered, 3,506,775 were answered giving a PCA of 86.0%. The ASA was 00:03:21.

Disability Living Allowance Lines (DLA)

The performance measure used is the PCA and the minimum target is to answer 93% of offered calls. We do not have a target for speed of answer, but do capture average speed of answer and percentage of answered in 30 seconds for all our service lines.

Please note the figures are for September.

Benefit Enquiry Line

Of 59,694 calls offered, 56,066 were answered giving a PCA of 93.9%. The ASA was 00:01:00. Of the ones answered 40.1% were answered within 30 seconds.

DLA Attendance Allowance 3rd Party Reps (AA)

Of 11,101 calls offered, 11,037 were answered giving a PCA of 99.4%, The ASA was 00:00:09. Of the ones answered 95.2% were answered within 30 seconds.

DLA AA DWP

Of 2,472 calls offered, 2,386 were answered giving a PCA of 96.5%. The ASA was 00:00:48. Of the ones answered 42.5% were answered within 30 seconds.

DLA AA Helpline—Changes of Circumstances

Of 58,561 calls offered, 55,792 were answered giving a PCA of 95.3%. The ASA was 00:01:24. Of the ones answered 34.1 % were answered within 30 seconds.

DLA AA Helpline—Claim Pack

Of 48,894 calls offered, 45,467 were answered giving a PCA of 93.0%. The ASA was 00:01:21. Of the ones answered 31.8% were answered within 30 seconds.

DLA AA Helpline—Enquiries

Of 245,966 calls offered, 232,592 were answered giving a PCA of 94.6%. The ASA was 00:01:35. Of the ones answered 30.1% were answered within 30 seconds.

DLA AA Helpline—Explanations

Of 22,430 calls offered, 21,930 were answered giving a PCA of 97.8%. The ASA was 00:00:53. Of the ones answered 39.6% were answered within 30 seconds.

DLA AA Motability

Of 2,184 calls offered, 2,065 were answered giving a PCA of 94.6%. The ASA was 00:00:52. Of the ones answered 39.7% were answered within 30 seconds.

Totals for the above

Of 451,302 calls offered, 427,335 giving a PCA of 94.7%. The ASA was 00:01:22. Of the ones answered 34.3% were answered within 30 seconds.

Carer's Allowance Unit Lines (CAU)

The performance measure used is the PCA and the minimum target is to answer 93% of offered calls.

Please note the figures are for September.

CAU Contact Centre

Of 79,953 calls offered, 75,407 were answered giving a PCA of 94.3%. The ASA was 00:01:27. Of the ones answered 40.6% were answered within 30 seconds.

Pension Centre Lines

The performance measure used for all service lines is PCA and the minimum target is to answer 93% of offered calls. We do not have a target for ASA although it is measured and reported.

Figures are for September.

State Pension Claims

Of 85,218 calls offered, 79,926 were answered giving a PCA of 93.8%. The ASA was 00:00:58.

Pension Credit Claims

Of 84,145 calls offered, 79,753 were answered giving a PCA of 94.8%. The ASA was 00:00:37.

State Pension Changes

Of 180,386 calls offered, 170,487 were answered giving a PCA of 94.5%. The ASA was 00:00:47.

Pension Credit Changes

Of 188,982 calls offered, 178,134 were answered giving a PCA of 94.3%. The ASA was 00:00:39.

Bereavement Service

Of 56,354 calls offered, 53,876 were answered giving a PCA of 95.6%. The ASA was 00:00:32

Non Regional Pension Centres

Of 131,209 calls offered, 127,373 were answered giving a PCA of 97.1%. The ASA was 00:00:23.

Totals for the above

Of 726,294 calls offered, 689,549 were answered giving a PCA of 94.9%. The ASA was 00:00:39.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association and its local offices the same level of telephone and email access to his Department and its associated public bodies as other voluntary agencies which assist people with welfare and benefit issues. [71887]

Chris Grayling: DWP works closely with many organisations which provide support to vulnerable people. We would be happy to work with the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association to assist our service personnel with employment, welfare and benefit issues. Guidance to our staff on disclosing information to voluntary organisations that work with our claimants is contained in our 'Working with Representatives' guidance on the DWP website. This guidance applies equally to staff of SSAFA as any other advice organisation.

Pension Credit

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to enable the automatic payment of pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [73593]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions has been carrying out a study to assess how information routinely collected might be used to ensure that pensioners get the help that is available through pension credit.

Estimated awards of pension credit were paid to a sample of around 2,000 pensioners who, based on the information already held, appeared to be entitled to but not receiving pension credit. These payments were made without the normal prerequisite for a claim, and lasted for a period of 12 weeks.

The delivery phase of the study ran from 15 November 2010 to 18 March 2011 and evaluation is now underway. Early findings from the study will be published in the week commencing 31 October 2011.

A full report will be published early in 2012.

Social Security Benefits: Polygamy

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claims were rejected due to the polygamous nature of the applicant's marriage in each of the last three years. [73630]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to what extent polygamous families are recognised in the benefits system; which benefits and credits may be claimed by such families; and if he will estimate the *(a)* total financial cost and *(b)* number of recipients of payment of such benefits in the latest period for which figures are available. [73631]

Chris Grayling: For income-replacement benefits such as income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and income-related employment and support allowance, the husband and first wife claim as a couple. Subsequent wives receive an additional sum which is less than the single person rate. These benefits are only payable for wives residing in Great Britain.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit entitlement for polygamous families is limited to those living in one property. There are no special rules for a husband to claim housing benefit for more than one property if his wives live separately.

The claimant may claim benefit/tax credits (depending on claim date) for any child or young person for whom he or a partner of his is responsible and who is a member of the same household.

Contributory benefits make no provision for polygamous marriages. Where a man dies leaving two widows, neither gets bereavement benefit. If at the time of his death he leaves a single widow, she could qualify for bereavement benefit.

A member of a polygamous marriage can claim a contributory or income-related benefit in their own right where they satisfy the relevant conditions of entitlement.

Information regarding the cost and number of polygamous households is not available.

However, the current Government have decided to no longer recognise polygamous marriages and there are measures in the Welfare Reform Bill which will bring this change in policy into effect under universal credit as from 2013.

State Retirement Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the changes which would be needed to the state pension age to maintain the average proportion of adult life spent in receipt of a state pension at the same proportion as in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2011. [72363]

Steve Webb: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The average proportion of male adult life in retirement for people reaching state pension age in 1981 was 23.7%. Maintaining this proportion over time would suggest the following state pension age timetable:

Age	*Year*
66	1985
67	1992
68	1996
69	2000
70	2004
71	2011
72	2015
73	2027
74	2041
75	2055

(b) The average proportion of male adult life in retirement for people reaching state pension age in 2005 was 31.3%. Maintaining this proportion over time would suggest the following state pension age timetable:

Age	*Year*
66	2014
67	2027
68	2042
69	2057

(c) The average proportion of male adult life in retirement for people reaching state pension age in 2011 was 32.2%. Maintaining this proportion over time would suggest the following state pension age timetable:

Age	*Year*
66	2022
67	2037
68	2053

Notes:

1. Estimates are based upon projections of UK male period life expectancy from the Office for National Statistics 2008-based projections. Life expectancy projections actually available in 1981 and 2005 are likely to differ and produce a lower proportion of adult life in retirement due to revisions made to the projections in subsequent years.
2. Estimates on a consistent basis are not available for 1980, 1981 has been used instead as the closest available year. Projections are available to 2058.
3. State pension age is increased when the proportion of male adult life in retirement for that age meets the proportion taken from the specific start year, people retiring between dates will have a higher proportion of adult life spent in retirement.
4. No assumptions are made about provision of sufficient notice for a future state pension age change, nor the necessary legislative timetable.
5. Adult life is defined as age 20 to state pension age, life in retirement is defined as mean life expectancy at state pension age.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the savings to the Exchequer which would arise from bringing forward the proposed increase in the state pension age to 67 years to *(a)* 2026, *(b)* 2030 and *(c)* 2032. [72364]

Steve Webb: Increasing the state pension age to 67 by:

(a) 2026 would produce estimated savings in DWP benefit spend of £70.4 billion between 2024/25 and 2035/36;

(b) 2030 would produce estimated savings in DWP benefit spend of £46.2 billion between 2028/29 and 2035/36;

(c) 2032 would produce estimated savings in DWP benefit spend of £32.0 billion between 2030/31 and 2035/36.

All estimates are in 2011/12 price terms and rounded to the nearest £100 million.

Notes:

1. The savings estimates presented are calculated in line with the methodology used to prepare the estimates of DWP AME savings published in the impact assessment presented with the Pensions Bill 2011. They take into account lower spending on pensioner benefits and higher spending on working age benefits and incorporate changes to long term assumptions following the publication of the Office of Budget Responsibility's July 2011 Fiscal Sustainability report.

2. The estimates are based on the current welfare system. Reliance on income-related pension benefits and working age benefits is assumed to remain in line, with current age-specific rates of reliance.

3. A baseline of the state pension age reaching 66 by April 2020 is assumed with an increase to 67 between 2024 and 2026. The brought forward increases to 67 occur over a two-year period.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer which would arise from capping the increase in the state pension age for an individual to a maximum of *(a)* 18 months, *(b)* 15 months and *(c)* 12 months. [72365]

Steve Webb: The following estimates assume that the timetable proposed in the Pensions Bill 2011 is applied until the relevant cap comes into force. The cap is applied until it is either no longer relevant, as the Pensions Bill timetable implies an increase lower than the cap, or a state pension age of 66 is reached.

(a) The cost of capping the increase in state pension age to a maximum of 18 months compared to the change in spend from the current Pensions Bill proposal is estimated at £1.1 billion between 2019-20 and 2020-21.

(b) The cost of capping the increase in state pension age to a maximum of 15 months compared to the change in spend from the current Pensions Bill proposal is estimated at £2.4 billion between 2018-19 and 2020-21.

(c) The cost of capping the increase in state pension age to a maximum of 12 months compared to the change in spend from the current Pensions Bill proposal is estimated at £4.3 billion between 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Notes:

1. The savings estimates presented are calculated in line with the methodology used to prepare the estimates of DWP AME savings published in the impact assessment presented with the Pensions Bill 2011. They take into account lower spending on pensioner benefits and higher spending on working age benefits and incorporate changes to long-term assumptions following the publication of the Office of Budget Responsibility's July 2011 Fiscal Sustainability report.

2. The estimates are based on the current welfare system. Reliance on income-related pension benefits and working age benefits is assumed to remain in line with current age-specific rates of reliance.

3. A baseline of the state pension age reaching 66 by April 2020 is assumed in line with the proposals set out in the Pensions Bill 2011.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely effect of auto-enrolment on the amount spent on pensions tax relief in each income decile in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2014, *(d)* 2015 and *(e)* 2016. [72366]

Steve Webb: The Department's estimate of the impact of tax relief on individual's pension contributions arising from automatic enrolment in each year between 2012-13 and 2016-17 is shown in Table 1. Information on the impact by income decile is not available.

Table 1: Estimated additional tax relief on employee pension contributions arising from automatic enrolment between 2012-13 and 2016-17

	Estimated cost of tax relief (£ million)
2012-13	5
2013-14	64
2014-15	138
2015-16	183
2016-17	489

Notes:

1. Estimates are derived from DWP modelling.

2. Estimates are expressed in 2011-12 levels and are rounded to the nearest £1 million.

Unemployment Benefits

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* non-EEA nationals, *(b)* EEA nationals and *(c)* UK nationals claiming out-of-work benefits in each of the last five years. [73183]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The UK's benefit payment systems do not record the nationality of people receiving benefits and therefore it is not possible to determine the number of claimants of each nationality. I have, however, commissioned work to make information available on the nationality of benefit claimants.

Access to income-related benefits[1] by non-European Economic Area nationals is strictly limited. They are excluded from such benefits because they are subject to immigration control, which prevents them from receiving public funds. Access to these benefits is therefore dependent on the type of leave the Home Office grants the individual.

Those who have worked in the UK and paid national insurance contributions may claim contributory benefits such as contribution-based jobseeker's allowance if they satisfy the contributions and other conditions for the benefit.

[1] Income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance; pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Universal Credit

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland that are in receipt of tax credits that will have their universal credit payment (i) capped and (ii) reduced below their existing tax credit entitlement as a result of the application of rules on the treatment of capital under the universal credit scheme. [73574]

Chris Grayling: A package of transitional protection is being developed in order to ensure that there will be no cash losers as a direct result of the move to universal credit where circumstances remain the same.

Departmental analysis estimates that in the long run around 100,000 households in Great Britain who would have been in receipt of tax credits may be affected by the capital rules (capital limit and tariff reduction) in universal credit.

Due to a small sample size it is not possible to provide a robust estimate for Scotland.

This analysis has been modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM) based on the Family Resources survey (FRS).

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a claimant will move from universal credit to tax credits if they transfer from an employer making universal credit real time PAYE notifications to one who does not before 2017. [73592]

Chris Grayling: It is expected that once a claimant has migrated onto the universal credit system, he/she will remain on universal credit and not return to a legacy benefit/credit.

An alternative system for gathering earnings data which for those outside of the PAYE is likely to be developed by DWP system, primarily the self employed and could be used in this scenario. It is envisaged that this system will be an on-line self service process. We will move to development during 2012 and will give claimants the appropriate information in due course.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to his Department was of appeals made to the Tribunals Service against work capability assessment decisions in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 to date. [72787]

Chris Grayling: The introduction of employment support allowance (ESA) in October 2008 was accompanied by the new work capability assessment (WCA). The WCA is based on advice delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) assessment contractors, Atos Healthcare.

If, following a work capability assessment, someone is found fit for work, they are no longer entitled to claim ESA. However they may appeal against the decision.

Published information and statistics for ESA claims and work capability assessments are available on the Department's website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Jobcentre Plus, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, is responsible for the administration of the work capability assessment appeal process before these are passed to the Tribunal Service.

The cost to Jobcentre Plus of WCA appeals made to the Tribunals Service for 2009, 2010 and 2011 year to date (YTD) is shown in the following table:

£ million

Financial year	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12 YTD*
WCA appeals	6.4	12.1	5.7

Notes:

1. The costs stated in this response only relate to the direct staff costs incurred by Jobcentre Plus.
2. The costs are recorded in financial years which run from April to March the following year.
3. The period 2011-12 YTD relates to WCA appeals from April 2011 to July 2011.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management system

Volumes of WCA appeals have increased each year from when ESA was introduced as more customers claim the benefit. This has led to an increased proportion of WCAs resulting in customers being classified as 'Fit for Work', whereby claimants have subsequently appealed against this decision.

Work Capability Assessments

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessments of claimants previously in receipt of incapacity benefit were completed in each month of 2011 to date. [73638]

Chris Grayling: The reassessment of existing incapacity benefits customers using the work capability assessment (WCA) was rolled out nationally from February 2011.

Letters are being issued as planned to 11,000 claimants per week informing them that their reassessment is about to commence. To manage the process smoothly, volumes were gradually ramped up from the end of February, and the numbers reached 11,000 per week in May. As at the end of September 2011, approximately 128,000 WCAs have been completed for IB reassessment claimants. After the WCA, the decision on entitlement to benefit is taken by a DWP decision maker.

The information on the number of WCAs completed above is from the Department's Management Information System. It relates to those assessments where Atos have made a recommendation based on either a face to face assessment or cleared by scrutiny of the customer's medical questionnaire. It does not include those customers whose WCA recommendations were returned to Jobcentre Plus because they had not complied with the process.

A monthly breakdown of the management information is not reliable because the data are captured by week. This means that for those weeks that cross over a month end the data cannot be attributed to any particular calendar month. In addition, as it was never the intention to publish this information, it has not been subject to the same rigorous quality assurance processes that are used for official statistics and as a result they should be used with a degree of caution.

Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the entire process including the final outcomes and subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected, but it will take time to complete because of the overall length of the reassessment process. The Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process but only once they have been quality assured and are considered robust.

CABINET OFFICE

Childbirth: Neonatal Mortality

Nick de Bois: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* live births and *(b)* stillbirths there were in each region of England in 2010. [73595]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) live births and (b) stillbirths there were in each region of England in 2010 [73595].

The following table provides the number of live births and stillbirths in each region in England for 2010, the most recent year for which figures are available.

Information on live births and stillbirths is routinely published on the ONS website. The most recent figures for England and Wales (2010) are available at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/characteristics-of-birth-1--england-and-wales/2010/rft-cb1-2010.xls

Table 1: Live births and stillbirths, regions in England, 2010

Number

Area of usual residence of mother	*Live births*	*Stillbirths*
England	687,007	3,506
Regions		
North-east	30,826	143
North-west	89,199	466

Table 1: Live births and stillbirths, regions in England, 2010

Area of usual residence of mother	Live births	Stillbirths
		Number
Yorkshire and The Humber	66,970	373
East midlands	55,232	293
West midlands	72,090	382
East	73,001	345
London	133,111	742
South-east	106,434	507
South-west	60,144	255

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress has been made on the mutualisation of MyCSP; and if he will make a statement. [73616]

Mr Maude: The transformation of My Civil Service Pension is currently under way. On 5 July 2011 we created the company and we are currently in the process of identifying a private sector partner for My Civil Service Pension.

As this process is currently in progress it would be inappropriate for me to make any further comment at this time.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many claimants flowed off jobseeker's allowance in each month from August 2010 to August 2011. [73591]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many claimants flowed off Jobseeker's Allowance in each month from August 2010 to August 2011. (73591)

Table 1 following shows the number of claimants who flowed off Jobseekers Allowance, resident in the UK, in each month from August 2010 to August 2011. These figures have been standardised onto a 4 and a 1/3 week basis.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of claimants[1] that flowed off jobseeker's allowance—seasonally adjusted

	Number
August 2010	324,500
September 2010	322,600
October 2010	325,700
November 2010	329,200
December 2010	333,700
January 2011	341,500
February 2011	328,300
March 2011	324,700
April 2011	314,400
May 2011	291,500
June 2011	298,300
July 2011	288,500
August 2011	297,500

[1] These flow figures are collected for 4 or 5 week periods between count dates, the figure above has been standardised to a 4 1/3 week month.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Social Media: Civil Servants

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* representations he has received on (i) existing and (ii) future guidance on the use of social media by civil servants and public sector workers. [73787]

Mr Maude: The existing guidance on the use of social media by civil servants was published in 2008, and is available online on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/participation-online

I have had no meetings or representations on amending the guidance. The existing guidance for civil servants is under review.

Third Sector

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to bring forward legislative proposals to set the framework for charitable incorporated organisations. [73583]

Mr Hurd: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Jackie Doyle-Price) on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 113W.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to *(a)* begin and *(b)* complete his consultation on reforming facility time arrangements for trade union representatives; and when he expects to implement new measures to regulate facility time. [73627]

Mr Maude: We are immediately reviewing trade union facility time across the civil service and will publish the results. Once the review is complete we will start consultation with trade unions.

Trade Unions: Civil Service

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will introduce measures to make the use of facility time by trade union representatives more transparent; and if he will require that details must be recorded in respect of all facility time used by trade union representatives in the Civil Service. [73626]

Mr Maude: Yes. We will publish the results of the review we are undertaking into trade union facilities time and we will introduce transparency on the use of trade union facilities time going forward.

Young People: Unemployment

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of people aged 18-24 years are unemployed in Halifax; and what proportion were unemployed in May 2010. [74002]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of people aged 18-24 years are unemployed in Halifax; and what proportion were unemployed in May 2010. (074002)

Estimates of the proportion of people aged 18 to 24 years unemployed in Halifax parliamentary constituency area are not available. As an alternative we have provided the proportion of people aged 18 to 24 years who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in Halifax. In May 2010, this was 11.2 per cent and in September 2011 was 13.6 percent.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Export Control Policy

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 78-79WS, on export control policy (review), what offensive naval, air and land-based military platforms have been supplied from the UK to *(a)* Bahrain, *(b)* Egypt, *(c)* Libya, *(d)* Syria, *(e)* Tunisia and *(f)* Yemen; and in which years. [73544]

Mr Prisk: The earliest we have been able to search our electronic records is 1999 for standard individual export licences (SIELs) and 2001 for open individual export licences (OIELs).

Our records indicate two standard individual export licences have been issued for the supply of armoured personnel carriers to Libya:

1. Issued in February 2007 for the supply of up to two armoured personnel carriers.
2. Issued in September 2008 for the supply of up to ten armoured personnel carriers.

We cannot verify whether these items were actually exported.

No licences were identified for Bahrain, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

All applications, including those for export to Libya, are carefully assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria taking into account the prevailing circumstances at the time of application.

Arms Export Licences

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department expects to charge for each approval process for licensing the export of arms and weapons. [72405]

Mr Prisk: The Export Control Organisation within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has been discussing with exporters the possibility of charging for strategic export licences. These informal discussions will continue. The Government will consult, including on the structure and level of the fees, as and when this becomes a firm Government proposal.

Construction

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of exports from the construction industry. [73615]

Mr Prisk: The latest data from HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics, the UK Balance of Payments (The Pink Book) and ONS Business Monitor MA4 Foreign Direct Investment show that the UK exported some £7.5billion worth of construction services and products in 2009. This compares with a total of £386.7 billion worth of total UK exports of goods and services in 2009.

UKTI, in partnership with BIS, has reviewed how it targets its sector based support, to ensure value for money from its resources. This review has mapped UK capabilities against the projected evolution of global demand, across a broad range of sectors. This has indicated that the construction sector had one of the highest growth rates in UK exports in the last three years to 2009 and with projected strong global demand to 2014.

Defence Equipment: Finance

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department contributed towards the cost of supporting the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition at the ExCel Centre between 13 and 16 September 2011. [72406]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 445W. Information on costs to UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) of the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition Capability Showcase is not expected to be confirmed for some time. Final costs will take account of the income to be received from UK defence companies which received specific assistance and support from UKTI DSO at the event.

Higher Education

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have sought on the for-profit higher education system in (i) the US and (ii) Europe. [73556]

Mr Willetts: The Government have taken account of a range of publications addressing alternative models of higher education provision. A further key way we gather such information is through meeting regularly with providers of higher education, including for-profit institutions, both in the UK and internationally. A quarterly-updated list of all BIS Ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

BIS officials will also have had meetings with a range of higher education providers, but a comprehensive record of these is not maintained.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates officials of his Department have had meetings with private higher education providers since May 2010. [73614]

Mr Willetts: BIS officials meet regularly with a wide range of providers of higher education. A comprehensive record of such meetings is not maintained.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason Warburg Pincus attended a meeting of for-profit and private higher education providers in *(a)* December 2010 and *(b)* January 2011; and if there have been any subsequent meetings between Warburn Pincus and (i) Ministers and (ii) officials of his Department. [73555]

Mr Willetts: I held two meetings with a range of private higher education providers in December 2010 and January 2011 to discuss how more private investment in, and provision of, higher education could be encouraged.

There have been no subsequent meetings between Warburg Pincus and myself, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), or other BIS Ministers. A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

A comprehensive record of meetings between BIS officials and external organisations is not maintained.

Higher Education: USA

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had discussions with the US Justice Department on its lawsuit concerning for-profit higher education providers; [73548]

(2) what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings (i) he, (ii) ministers and (iii) officials in his Department have had with (A) providers of for-profit higher education who have businesses based in the US, (B) the US Government Accountability Office, (C) the US Department of Education, (D) the US Senate Committee for Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, (E) US elected representatives and (F) higher education lecturers and practitioners from the for-profit higher education sector in the US. [73563]

Mr Willetts: It is not the normal practice of the Government to disclose details of their discussions with foreign governments. I am aware of developments in the US for-profit higher education system and the particular concerns raised in the Justice Department's lawsuit. But the comparison is an imperfect one. Funding incentives are different and the UK has a highly regarded system of quality assurance, with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education responsible for upholding standards in UK universities and colleges.

I meet regularly with a wide range of providers of higher education in the UK and internationally. The Department does not hold comprehensive information on whether higher education providers Ministers have met are classed as for-profit or not-for-profit institutions. Quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

BIS officials will also have had conversations with a range of higher education providers. A comprehensive record of such meetings is not maintained.

Post Offices

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage and support community-run post offices. [73472]

Mr Davey: There are already many community operated post offices in a range of urban and rural locations, and these community post offices show how a mutual model is already working well at the local level. The Government are currently consulting on proposals that could, in time, see Post Office Ltd converted to a mutual structure. Mutual ownership could give community representatives a direct say in how Post Office Ltd is run.

The management of Post Office Ltd ensures that strict access criteria, which see that over 99% of the national population live within three miles of a post office, are met. It does this by managing contractual relationships between the company and local sub-postmasters across the country, including many who operate community-run post offices.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many community-run post offices there are in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Kent. [73473]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend, and for a copy of her reply to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Growth Fund

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce the first allocation of funds under the regional growth fund. [73629]

Mr Prisk: An announcement on the first round of successful regional growth fund bids was made on 12 April. Bids received in the second round of bidding are being assessed and we aim to make announcements in the autumn.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Allowances

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 830-1W, on Audit Commission: allowances, if he will publish a breakdown of the hospitality expenses, including venue, individual cost, purpose and attendees, for each of the directors with aggregate hospitality claims referred to in that answer of more than £500. [72437]

Grant Shapps: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 12 October 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Two directors had aggregate hospitality claims totalling over £500 in 2009.

Details of claims by David Walker, Managing Director of Communications and Steve Bundred, Chief Executive have been placed in the Library of the House.

Council Housing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people renting council accommodation in each of the last 30 years. [72054]

Andrew Stunell: The following table includes the Department's published estimates in terms of numbers of households in local authority housing in England. The estimates are subject to a margin of error being based on sample surveys.

Households in local authority accommodation, England

	Households (thousand)
1981	5,100
1984	4,660
1988	4,246
1991	3,872
1992	3,785
1993	3,671
1994	3,560
1995	3,489
1996	3,375
1997	3,263
1998	3,209
1999	3,093
2000	2,904
2001	2,879
2002	2,735
2003	2,542
2004	2,469
2005	2,250
2006	2,244
2007	2,211
2008-09	1,887
2009-10	1,745

Sources:
1981 to 1991: Labour Force Survey Housing Trailer
1992 to 2007: Labour Force Survey
2008-09 and 2009-10: English Housing Survey

Empty Property

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of empty homes *(a)* returned into use to date and *(b)* to be returned to use by October 2012 as a direct consequence of the provision of £100 million for the purpose under the comprehensive spending review. [72418]

Andrew Stunell: We expect the £100 million set aside within the Affordable Homes Programme to bring empty homes back into use to deliver at least 3,300 homes. The money is available from April, and the criteria for bids on this fund will be published shortly.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 11, on empty homes, what mechanisms he plans to use to dramatically accelerate the process of bringing empty homes back into use. [72675]

Andrew Stunell: We have accelerated the process of bringing empty homes back into use by providing powerful tools and incentives to support local communities to tackle empty homes. Through the New Homes Bonus, communities will receive a direct financial reward for bringing an empty home back into use. We are also investing £100 million through the Affordable Homes Programme to tackle empty homes directly. I announced on 20 September 2011 that community and voluntary organisations will be able to bid for part of this funding. In due course we will also be consulting on plans to allow councils local discretion to introduce a council tax premium on homes in their area that have been empty for more than two years.

EU Grants and Loans

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press notice of 1 August 2011, on European Regional Development Funding, how much funding has been lost in financial corrections and unrecoverable amounts due to irregularities in the 2000 to 2006 programme. [72392]

Robert Neill: There has been £101.3 million in financial corrections and unrecoverable amounts arising from irregularities from the European Regional Development Fund 2000-06 programme throughout the period 2000-11.

The Fund programme has been plagued by a legacy of poor administration and fines that dates back to 2000. The coalition Government have overhauled the management of these schemes, bringing them in-house, and successfully minimising the liabilities.

The measures that this Government have taken have been recognised by the European Commission.

Administration of European Regional Development Fund 2000-06 programme had been the responsibility of the Government Offices for the Regions. Following the closure of the Government Offices, management of the Fund programme moved in-house to the Department for Communities and Local Government on 1 April 2011.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press notice of 1 August 2011, on European Regional Development Funding, what the reasons are for the funding which cannot be recovered due to irregularities in relation to each project in the 2000 to 2006 programme. [72393]

Robert Neill: The information requested, consistent with the figures published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11, has been placed in the Library of the House.

In compiling the information we have not included those debts which the Department has recorded as a charge on the accounts but in respect of which it may still be continuing to pursue the recovery of amounts recorded. We have also withheld information in a case which is the subject of an EU audit and where disclosure of the information would be incompatible with European Community obligations. The information provided was correct as of 31 March 2011 when the Annual Report and Accounts were drawn up; some of this information may no longer be current with regard to the projects identified.

The European Regional Development Fund programme has been plagued by a legacy of poor administration and fines that dates back to 2000. The coalition Government has overhauled the management of these schemes, bringing them in-house, and successfully minimising the liabilities.

Homes and Communities Agency: Government Procurement Card

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of the Housing and Communities Agency and its predecessor were disciplined for misuse or abuse of the Government Procurement Card between 2005-06 and 2009-10. [72423]

Andrew Stunell: There were no disciplinary cases identified by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors for misuse or abuse of the Government Procurement Card between 2005-06 and 2009-10.

Housing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what effect the introduction of the New Homes Bonus will have on the level of formula grant for local authorities in the North of England; [73756]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the New Homes Bonus on formula grant for Gateshead metropolitan borough council; and if he will take steps to ensure that the formula grant allocated to Gateshead is not reduced as a result of the introduction of the bonus; [74194]

(3) if he will make it his policy not to reduce Formula Grant to local authorities as a result of the introduction of the New Homes Bonus. [74200]

Robert Neill: We have already made clear our policy on the funding of the New Homes Bonus. The full amount of the New Homes Bonus for 2011-12 was met from Department for Communities and Local Government funding. For each of the years 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, £250 million was allocated to the New Homes Bonus from Department for Communities and Local Government funding. Funding beyond these levels will come from Formula Grant.

Under the provisional 2012-13 settlement we transferred £176 million from formula grant to fund the New Homes Bonus. Transition grant guarantees that no authority will receive a reduction in its spending power of more than 8.8% in both 2011-2012 and 2012-13.

The New Homes Bonus will ensure that the economic benefits of housing growth are returned to the local area, so encouraging and rewarding the construction of new homes in the north of England and across the Country.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the impact on the average cost of construction of an average home of achieving the equivalent of level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes; and if he will make a statement. [R] [72226]

Andrew Stunell: The Code for Sustainable Homes is the voluntary national standard for the design and construction of sustainable new homes. The Department recently published a report updating the estimated cost of implementing the various levels of the code. 'Cost of Building to the Code for Sustainable Homes—updated cost review' is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/codeupdatedcostreview

Landlords

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of introducing statutory landlord accreditation. [72279]

Andrew Stunell: Many local authorities already operate voluntary landlord accreditation schemes which we welcome. Such schemes work best when they are tailored to reflect local market conditions which local authorities are best placed to judge. At present, therefore, we have no plans to take away this local discretion by setting up a nationwide scheme.

Local Government: Finance

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to allow local authorities to transfer unspent funding provided by central Government to the subsequent financial year. [73588]

Robert Neill: Unless otherwise specified by grant conditions, local authorities can use Government funding across financial years.

Metals: Theft

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the cost to local authorities of replacing metal items which have been stolen in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough in the last year. [73149]

Robert Neill: No such estimates have been made. Information on this is not held centrally.

Natural Gas: Safety

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that landlords comply with the legal requirement to arrange for registered Gas Safe engineers to carry out annual gas safety tests in their properties. [73707]

Andrew Stunell: Landlords are responsible for the safety of their tenants. The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 deals with landlords' duties to make sure gas appliances, fittings and flues provided for tenants are safe.

The Health and Safety Executive gives gas safety a high priority and will take the appropriate action, often working with the local authority, to ensure compliance with the regulations; this could result in a substantial fine and/or a custodial sentence.

To help ensure landlords and tenants are aware of their responsibilities on 3 September we published advice for those either letting or renting a property, including a 'Dos and Don'ts' factsheet for landlords and 'Dos and Don'ts' factsheet for tenants. Both factsheets set out that it is a legal requirement for the landlord to provide a gas safety certificate if there are gas appliances in the property, to arrange an annual gas safety check carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer and to provide the tenant with the certificate within 28 days of each annual check. The fact sheets also provide a link to information on the Health and Safety Executive's frequently asked questions page and details of their Gas Safety Advice Line.

Surveys

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the ending of the Citizenship Survey and the Place Survey; and what analysis his Department undertook on the effects of ending these surveys. [72606]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 11 October 2011]:* I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on the Citizenship Survey.

As outlined in my Department's press notice of 10 August 2010, a copy of which is in the Library, the abolition of the Place Survey will save £5 million of taxpayers' money and is part of the coalition Government's reduction of centrally-imposed burdens on local authorities. My Department corresponded with the Local Government Association who supported the decision to cancel the survey, and with the UK Statistics Authority who had no objection.

Temporary Employment: Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department issues guidance to local authorities on the contracting of agency staff; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any such guidance. [73158]

Robert Neill: None. The Local Government Employers leads on providing guidance on a wide range of pay and workforce matters for local authorities, including guidance on the new Agency Workers Regulations which came into force on 1 October 2011. This information can be accessed by the link:

http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageId=8780369

Travellers: Planning Permission

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans located on sites granted retrospective planning permission in *(a)* each local authority area and *(b)* England (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) since May 2010. [73625]

Andrew Stunell: The Government do not collect this information.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Waste

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what formula has been agreed for the distribution of the additional funding for local authorities to obtain or sustain weekly refuse collection services; and if he will make a statement. [73678]

Robert Neill: No formula is needed for the distribution of funding under the new Weekly Collection Support scheme. It is intended that the scheme will operate as a challenge fund, with the amount of money being available to each local authority depending on the content and quality of their bid. As outlined in the written ministerial statement of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1WS, up to £250 million will be available in total under this fund and further details of the scheme will be made available in due course.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Attorney-General how many cases the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has reviewed for trial in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and in how many of those cases the CPS concluded that there was not sufficient evidence to proceed to court. [73552]

The Attorney-General: Between September 2010 and August 2011, the CPS reviewed, in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors, a total of 930,457 cases; 46,544 of those cases did not progress because there was not sufficient evidence to proceed to court. The CPS does not hold reliable data which distinguishes the stage of review.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 13 October 2011

WORK AND PENSIONS

Working Tax Credit

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary for Work and Pensions what *(a)* transitional arrangements and *(b)* additional services will be put in place for couples with children including one partner who claims (i) carer's allowance as a full-time carer and (ii) incapacity benefit who work between 16 and 24 hours a week and will lose their entitlement to working tax credit unless they increase their hours of work to over 24 hours a week. [72541]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Couples with children will continue to qualify for working tax credit where at least one member of a couple works at least 16 hours per week and that person is eligible for the working tax credit disability element or is aged 60 or over.

Couples with children where one partner is being paid a carer's allowance as a full time carer of their partner will also continue to qualify where working 16 hours or more a week.

Couples with children may also qualify for working tax credit if one member of a couple works at least 16 hours a week and a qualifying sickness or disability benefit, for example, incapacity benefit is payable for the other.

HMRC is not planning to make any transitional arrangements or provide additional services for couples with children who may lose entitlement to working tax credit as a result of the change to the working hours conditions in April 2012.

HMRC will be writing to those who may be affected before the end of this year to advise them of the change and what they need to do if they wish to continue to qualify for working tax credit.

Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73114]

Chris Grayling: DWP is subject to a Treasury/Cabinet Office 'freeze' on consultancy spend and spend is permitted only in cases of operational necessity and where there are no suitable in-house resources.

DWP obtains ministerial sign-off for any spend exceeding £20,000 in value and has this reapproved on a rolling three-month basis. Additionally DWP submits contracts in excess of nine months and those for procurement related consultancy to the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury for approval.

DWP has a framework agreement, compliant with the requirements of the EU procurement regulations, of consultancy suppliers that it uses as its default sourcing route once spend has been approved.

Enterprise Allowance Scheme

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice from independent business consultants is available as part of his Department's enterprise allowance scheme. [73746]

Chris Grayling: Once accepted onto the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) a participant is matched with a volunteer business mentor who will provide advice and support from the first stages of business plan development, through start-up and into the early months of trading. The business mentor is there to provide guidance on all aspects of business start-up that will help make the NEA participant's new business a success. New Enterprise Allowance partnerships are also responsible for drawing together other sources of business advice and support for participants, to ensure that they and their business mentor have access to all the information they might need.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation his Department undertook with the Institute of Business Consultants in developing the enterprise allowance scheme. [73748]

Chris Grayling: The New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) is the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions. In developing the NEA the Department consulted with a number of stakeholders across the country to ensure the NEA provides the support unemployed people need to successfully start their own businesses. However, the Department did not consult with the Institute of Business Consultants.

Business support in Wales is a devolved matter and the Department did consult with the Welsh Government during the development of the NEA.

Enterprise Allowance Scheme: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had discussions on the development of the enterprise allowance scheme with *(a)* the Welsh Government and *(b)* professional bodies representing business advisers in Wales. [73747]

Chris Grayling: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Ministers from the Department for Work and Pensions have discussed welfare reform with the Welsh Government, however the development of the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) has not formed part of those discussions.

In developing the NEA the Department consulted with a number of stakeholders across the country, however the Secretary of State has not discussed the development of the NEA with any professional bodies specifically representing business advisers in Wales.

Pension Credit

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was between a person making their *(a)* first and *(b)* second claim for pension credit and receiving a decision in the latest period for which figures are available. [73068]

Steve Webb: The actual average clearance time (AACT) for all first and second claims for pension credit (PC) is 10.3 days. This is based on current year to date information from April 2011 to September 2011.

Notes:

(i) The actual average clearance time (AACT) is measured from the date on which all evidence is received to enable a decision to be made.

(ii) We have taken a second claim for PC to mean a new claim. When a person's earnings extinguish their entitlement to PC, their claim to PC is closed. When their employment ends they should contact the Pension Service to make a new claim.

Source:

Management Information System Programme (MISP)

Social Fund: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of the social fund is spent in Scotland. [73345]

Steve Webb: The information requested for 2010-11 is set out as follows.

Amount and proportion of Community Care Grant spend in Scotland

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Proportion spend (percentage)*
Scotland	20.8	15
England and Wales	118.1	85
Total	138.9	100

Amount and proportion of budgeting loan spend in Scotland

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Proportion spend (percentage)*
Scotland	48.5	11
England and Wales	397.4	89
Total	445.9	100

Amount and proportion of crisis loan spend in Scotland

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Proportion spend (percentage)*
Scotland	29.0	13
England and Wales	199.4	87
Total	228.3	100

Amount and proportion of Sure Start Maternity Grant spend in Scotland

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Proportion spend (percentage)*
Scotland	9.3	7
England and Wales	120.7	93
Total	130.1	100

Amount and proportion of funeral payment spend in Scotland

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Proportion spend (percentage)*
Scotland	6.2	13
England and Wales	40.3	87
Total	46.5	100

Amount and proportion of cold weather payment spend in Scotland

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Proportion spend (percentage)*
Scotland	93.9	22
England and Wales	336.9	78
Total	430.8	100

Amount and proportion of winter fuel payment spend in Scotland

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Proportion spend (percentage)*
Scotland	239.7	9
England and Wales	2,503.4	91
Total	2,743.1	100

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. Figures rounded to the nearest £100,000.
3. For technical reasons, it is only possible to give estimates of cold weather payments, not actual out-turns.
4. For cold weather payments there are three weather stations which straddle the England and Scotland border and these have not been included in the Scotland estimate.
5. The payment per week of cold weather was £25 in 2010-11.
6. For crisis loans, budgeting loans, funeral payments, sure start maternity grants and community care grants social fund budget areas has been used to determine expenditure.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the incidence of benefit claiming is in each of the smallest geographical units for which data are available. [72211]

Maria Miller: The information requested is 4,500 pages long and has therefore been placed in the Library for ease of reference.

Social Security Benefits: Post Offices

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of benefits paid by his Department directly into *(a)* Post Office card accounts and *(b)* bank accounts in each of the last three years. [74187]

Steve Webb: The following table shows the percentage of benefit and pension accounts administered by DWP being paid into *(a)* Post Office card accounts and *(b)* bank accounts as at June in each of the last three years.

	Percentage paid into Post Office card account	*Percentage paid into bank account*
2009	18.1	80.2
2010	17.1	81.5
2011	16.1	82.8

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate.

A small number of benefit and pension recipients (less than 2%) cannot be paid into an account and are currently paid by cheque.

Widowed Parents Allowance

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he plans to amend eligibility criteria for widowed parent's allowance to include people who lived with and had a child with the deceased but who were not married or in a civil partnership; [73483]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the eligibility criteria for widowed parent's allowance in relation to applicants who lived with a partner and had a child but were not married or in a civil partnership. [73485]

Steve Webb: This Government are clear that the benefits system should help bereaved people cope with their immediate needs and adjust to their new circumstances. It should do so in a way that avoids additional stress at this difficult time.

As bereavement benefits have been in place since 2001, in their current form, the Government are currently undertaking a fundamental review into the impact of the current regime, societal changes, and the relationship with universal credit.

Social research is under way which will enable us to gain insight into the dynamic impact of bereavement on different household types. Understanding the challenges people face, as well as how they overcome them and over what timescale, will help steer our work on any options for reform.

This research will be published in due course and any subsequent proposals for reform will be subject to public consultation in the normal way.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for widowed parent's allowance were rejected on the basis that the applicant lived with a deceased partner but was not married or in a civil partnership in the latest period for which figures are available. [73484]

Steve Webb: The figures requested are not available, as there is no central record of bereavement benefit claims which have been disallowed.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Clean Energy Ministerial 2012

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what priorities he has set for the G20 Clean Energy Ministerial 2012. [73535]

Gregory Barker: The Government's key priorities for the 2012 Clean Energy Ministerial include securing practical progress on low carbon energy deployment through bringing the public and private sectors together and sharing best practice in the UK and internationally.

This will be achieved through detailed discussion, for example on public and private finance for clean energy, on energy efficiency and by building on the 11 CEM initiatives announced last year (Carbon Capture Use and Storage, Clean Energy Education and Empowerment Women's Initiative, Electric Vehicles, Global Superior Energy Performance Partnership, International Smart Grid Action Network, Super-Efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment Initiative, Solar and LED Energy Access Programme, Bioenergy Working Group, Clean Energy Solutions Centre, Sustainable Development of Hydropower Initiative and Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group).

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73101]

Gregory Barker: The Department only uses external consultants for essential work which it is clear cannot be done in-house.

The business case for any proposed consultancy in excess of £20,000 must be approved by the Chief Operating Officer and a Minister. Continuing contracts must be re-approved every three months. Contracting through a cross-Government framework agreement is always considered first, however if no suitable framework exists then an open competitive tender is placed on the *Official Journal of the European Union* (if the estimated value is near or above the EU threshold), or if below using the Contracts Finder facility which ensures open competition.

Similar procedures apply to proposed consultancy below £20,000 except that approval at Director General level is sufficient in such cases.

Transport-related Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff and at what cost in each year since its inception. [74463]

Gregory Barker: DECC's policy is that it does not pay fines on behalf of its staff.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73122]

Gregory Barker: In the financial year 2010-11 DECC spent £53,000 on furniture and fixtures and fittings.

In the financial year 2010-11 DECC also spent £218,000 on facility management minor works which includes fixtures and fittings, painting, carpeting and upgrading toilets.

Electricity: Prices

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has assessed the Exeltium consortium in France as a model for the supply of low-carbon electricity to energy-intensive industries at a fixed price. [73037]

Gregory Barker: The Government have asked energy intensive industry to examine whether such an approach could translate to the UK energy market and are ready to help facilitate discussions with utilities on this issue. This option is being considered as part of the development of the package of measures to reduce the effects of Government policy on electricity costs for those energy-intensive businesses whose international competitiveness is most affected by UK energy and climate change policy. Government plan to announce the details of the package before the end of the year.

Energy Companies: Secondment

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff have been seconded from energy companies to his Department to assist with preparing its electricity market reform proposals; and from which companies. [73750]

Gregory Barker: Two members of staff have been seconded to the Department of Energy and Climate Change from the companies identified as follows to assist with preparing the electricity market reform proposals[1]:

Elexon

National Grid.

[1] A number of staff have also been seconded to DECC from energy consultancies but are not included in the figures above as these are not classified as energy companies.

Energy Supply: Prices

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what consideration he has given to allowing energy-intensive industries to claim back the carbon price support rates paid on electricity; and if he will make a statement; [73038]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential risks to energy-intensive industries of the introduction of carbon price support; and whether he has identified certain industries as priorities for any mitigation. [73039]

Gregory Barker: Tax is a matter for HM Treasury. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer keeps all tax policy under review as part of the Budget process.

The Government response to the carbon price floor consultation, and accompanying tax impact and information note (TIIN) estimated that electricity bills for an average energy-intensive business will increase by 2% and 6% in 2013 and 2016 respectively.

As announced as part of the Fourth Carbon Budget, the Government will announce before the end of the year a package of measures for those energy intensive businesses whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies, in order to reduce the impact of Government policy on the cost of electricity for these businesses. We are undertaking a sector by sector analysis to ensure the package targets the most affected industries.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Scottish Power, *(b)* EDF Energy, *(c)* E.ON UK, *(d)* Scottish and Southern Energy, *(e)* Centrica-British Gas and *(f)* nPower on domestic energy costs; [73266]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on fuel poverty and domestic energy costs; [73268]

(3) what recent representations he has received from *(a)* organisations representing elderly people, *(b)* individuals and *(c)* environmental groups on domestic energy costs. [73267]

Gregory Barker: Ministers and officials meet regularly with the stakeholders mentioned above, to discuss a range of issues. Quarterly lists of DECC Ministers' meetings that involve outside interested parties are published on the DECC website, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Officials have been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions developing the data matching elements of the Warm Home Discount scheme to ensure that up to 600,000 of the poorest pensioners in Great Britain receive an automatic rebate of £120 on their electricity bills this winter.

We have also had regular discussions with energy suppliers to secure a voluntary agreement to provide consumers with cheaper tariff information on bills this winter, and an additional winter mail-out to provide millions of customers with information on how much they could save by switching to direct debit payment.

Energy: Housing

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what his policy is on the use of bioliquid as a household fuel; [73041]

(2) what his policy is on including conversions to the use of bioliquid as a domestic fuel within the Renewable Heat Incentive; [73043]

(3) if he will assess the likely effect on levels of greenhouse gas emissions of increased use of bioliquid as a household fuel. [73042]

Gregory Barker: Our policy is that electricity generated from bioliquids, including at the microgeneration level, can be eligible for support under the renewables obligation as long as the bioliquids pass the mandatory sustainability criteria. For every megawatt of electricity produced from bioliquids, generators currently receive: 1.5 renewable obligation certificates (ROCs) for dedicated bioliquids, 1 ROC for fossil derived bioliquids such as FAME (fatty acid methyl ester) biodiesel, 0.5 ROCs for co-firing and 2 ROCs for fuels made through advanced pyrolysis. We expect to publish a consultation shortly which will set proposals for support for bioliquids and other renewable technologies in the renewables obligation from 2013. The consultation will be accompanied by an impact assessment which will assess the impact of the proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.

Use of bioliquids as a household fuel, including conversion of existing boilers, is not currently supported under the renewable heat incentive (RHI) or the renewable heat premium payment. As stated in the RHI document (published in March) we are considering whether to support bioliquids as part of developing the second phase of the RHI scheme. As in the case of the renewable obligation, an impact assessment will be produced which will assess the impact of the proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.

Green Deal Scheme

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answers of 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1371W and of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 197W, on energy: housing, when he expects the Green Deal to be launched; and how soon after the launch of the Green Deal he proposes to publish the outstanding progress reports under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. [74182]

Gregory Barker: We aim to launch the Green Deal in autumn 2012 and will seek to publish a progress report under HECA at the same time.

Natural Gas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the maximum depth of drilling operations for shale gas is in the UK; and at what depths he expects hydraulic fracturing to take place. [74027]

Charles Hendry: Drilling depths for shale gas will be specific to the drilling location. However shale gas exploration drilling is only taking place in a small number of locations within the UK at present. The most active drilling area and the only one where hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for shale gas has been carried out is at Cuadrilla's site near Blackpool. Two exploration wells have been drilled, the deepest to a depth of 10,775 feet, and a further well is currently being drilled. Fracking has only taken place at one site—at depths of between 6,550 and 8,823 feet. Again, fracking depths will be dependent on the well location and the depth and size of any shale seam encountered.

Offshore Industry: Safety

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the report by the European Parliament on facing the challenges of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities. [73008]

Charles Hendry: The European Parliament report is an "own-initiative" report and has no formal legal standing.

We are expecting formal proposals from the European Commission on the safety of offshore oil and gas activities to be issued before the end of the year. Following the release of these proposals, we would expect the European Parliament to comment further as part of the co-decision process.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to increase the feed-in tariff for micro generators. [74634]

Gregory Barker: The comprehensive review of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme is currently under way and is considering all aspects of the scheme including administration, tariffs and eligibility for FITs. We are intending to consult on formal proposals later this year. Changes as a result of the review will be implemented in April 2012 unless the review indicates the need for greater urgency.

Sellafield

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is planning to cease immobilising Dounreay Fast Reactor nuclear material on site and transporting it to Sellafield for reprocessing. [73649]

Charles Hendry: The forecast completion date of Magnox reprocessing has been extended for operational performance reasons to around 2017. This extension means that completion of Magnox Operating Plan (MOP) and recovery of Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR) breeder material, through the Magnox reprocessing plant, are now on comparable time scales. Reprocessing of DFR breeder material accelerates remediation of the material by utilising an existing mature technology, which reduces programme, engineering and cost risk while meeting security and cost optimisation objectives. Further details on the case for DFR Breeder reprocessing can be found on the NDA website at

http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/upload/Exotic-Fuels-Dounreay-Fast-Reactor-DFR-Breeder-Credible-and-Preferred-Options-July-2011.pdf

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) for what reason the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is proposing further reprocessing of nuclear material, including breeder material from Dounreay; [73650]

(2) for what reason the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is proposing continued reprocessing of nuclear material at Sellafield, including increasing the amount of nuclear material to be reprocessed by planned transport from Dounreay to Sellafield of Dounreay Fast Reactor breeder material. [73651]

Charles Hendry: There are two reprocessing programmes in operation within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Estate: Magnox reprocessing and oxide reprocessing (in THORP).

Reprocessing of Magnox fuel remains the most viable and cost effective option for the management of Magnox fuel. The forecast completion date of Magnox reprocessing has been extended for operational performance reasons to around 2017. The Magnox extension means that completion of Magnox Operating Plan (MOP) and recovery of Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR) breeder material, through the Magnox reprocessing plant, are now on comparable timescales. Reprocessing of DFR breeder material accelerates remediation of the material by utilising an existing mature technology, which reduces programme, engineering and cost risk whilst meeting security and cost optimisation objectives. Further details on the case for DFR Breeder reprocessing can be found on the NDA website at:

http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/upload/Exotic-Fuels-Dounreay-Fast-Reactor-DFR-Breeder-Credible-and-Preferred-Options-July-2011.pdf

In line with the Energy Act 2004 and published NDA Strategy 2011, the NDA strategic position is to complete the existing oxide fuel (in THORP) reprocessing contracts. This remains the most viable and cost-effective option.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority will end all reprocessing activity at Sellafield and decommission the reprocessing facilities following the closure of the Sellafield MOX plant. [73652]

Charles Hendry: There are two reprocessing programmes in operation within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Estate: Magnox reprocessing and oxide reprocessing (in THORP). Reprocessing of Magnox fuel remains the most viable and cost effective option for the management of Magnox fuel. In line with the Energy Act 2004 and published NDA Strategy 2011, the NDA strategic position is to complete the existing oxide fuel reprocessing contracts. This remains the most viable and cost-effective option.

Of these programmes, only oxide reprocessing will produce overseas owned plutonium, and in comparatively small quantities as the majority of overseas owned fuel has already been reprocessed. The closure of the Sellafield MOX plant (SMP) does not materially impact on these programmes and in any case it was only licensed and approved for dealing with overseas owned plutonium, as a product from reprocessing, stored in the UK.

Solar Power

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many companies with less than five people employed in their manual workforce and a turnover of under £0.5 million are registered as qualified to install solar thermal, air source and ground source systems under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* nationally. [73434]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold information on the turnover or number of employees for certified MCS installation companies. All MCS installation companies are listed on the MCS website:

www.microgenerationcertification.org

The number of MCS installation companies based in the UK and Wales for solar thermal and heat pumps technologies are as follows:

Technology	*MCS companies in whole of UK*	*MCS companies based in Wales*
Solar thermal	1004	38
Ground source heat pumps	584	26
Air source heat pumps	687	28

The total numbers of microgeneration installation companies registered as MCS certificated are:

(a) 124 based in Wales;

(b) 3,269 based in the whole UK.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much he expects to provide in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74830]

Gregory Barker: DECC's finance system does not record whether a supplier or grant recipient is a civil society organisation.

To review the Department's records to identify all direct payments to civil society organisations would incur disproportionate costs.

Wind Power

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average amount of public subsidy was per onshore wind turbine per day in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [73087]

Charles Hendry: The Renewables Obligation (RO) is a market based subsidy and ROCs are tradeable commodities which have no fixed price. The amount a supplier pays for a ROC is dependent on bi-lateral negotiations between supplier and generator.

Information relating to stations accredited under the RO is based on station's capacity rather than number of turbines (operational turbines range from under 1MW up to around 3MW in size). The number of ROCs a generator receives depends on the number of MWh generated, which is dependent on load factors which vary across the country.

The total number of ROCs issued to onshore wind turbines and the total installed capacity of accredited onshore wind farms across the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available is given in the following table:

	ROCs issued to onshore wind	*Capacity (MW)*
2005-06	2,595,267	1,583
2006-07	4,208,975	1,903
2007-08	4,816,343	2,538
2008-09	6,220,107	3,131
2009-10	7,250,909	3,700

The nominal value represents the maximum worth of a ROC to a generator but is not necessarily the amount paid by a supplier. The nominal value of a ROC for each of the last five years is given in the following table:

	Nominal ROC value (£)
2005-06	42.54
2006-07	49.28
2007-08	52.95
2008-09	54.37
2009-10	52.36

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much each onshore wind farm company received in subsidy from the public purse in each of the last 12 months. [73088]

Charles Hendry: Under the Renewables Obligation (RO), onshore wind farms currently receive one Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) for each megawatt hour (MWh) of eligible electricity they generate. The RO is a market based subsidy and ROCs are tradeable commodities which have no fixed price. The amount a supplier pays for a ROC is dependent on bi-lateral negotiations between supplier and generator.

The number of ROCs issued to each generating station is available on the Ofgem website:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average efficiency of on-shore wind turbines was in each of the last 12 months. [73249]

Charles Hendry: We understand this question to mean load factors, rather than efficiency. DECC produces load factors for onshore wind, on a quarterly basis. These can be found for the last four quarters in the following table.

Year/Quarter	*Onshore wind load factor (percentage)*
2010 Q3	21.9
2010 Q4	25.7
2011 Q1	26.3
2011 Q2	27.0

Note:
Quarterly wind load factors are produced on a standard basis, rather than the unchanged configuration basis used for annual load factors.
Source:
Energy Trends table ET 7.1—available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much energy was produced by on-shore wind generation in each of the last 12 months; and what proportion of the UK's total energy requirement this represented in each month. [73248]

Charles Hendry: DECC produces data for all onshore wind generation, and total energy supply, on a quarterly basis. The following table shows the contribution of onshore wind generation to total UK energy, as well as electricity, supply in each of the last four quarters.

Year/Quarter	*Onshore wind generation (GWh)*	*Proportion of UK total energy supply (percentage)*	*Proportion of UK electricity supply (percentage)*
2010 Q3	1,903	0.4	2.2
2010 Q4	2,272	0.3	2.2
2011 Q1	2,322	0.3	2.2
2011 Q2	2,480	0.5	2.9

Sources:
1. Onshore wind generation: Energy Trends table ET 7.1, available at: http://www.decc.gov.uk/(lc/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/renewables/renewables.aspx
2. UK energy supply: Energy Trends table ET 1.3, available at: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/total/total.aspx
3. UK electricity supply: Energy Trends table ET 5.2, available at: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average amount of energy used per month by a 126.5m wind turbine; and how much was spent from the public purse on subsidies for energy used by such turbines in the latest period for which figures are available. [73251]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 442W, in which I stated that independent analysis commissioned by DECC estimates own power used by wind turbines ranges between 1.5% and 2.4%.

The Renewable Obligation is a generation based subsidy. Renewable Obligation Certificates are therefore issued in respect of the renewable output of a generating station. However, the renewable output of a generating station is reduced to take into account input electricity if the input electricity used by the generating station in generating the output electricity exceeds 0.5% of the total amount of the output electricity. This is set out in Article 25(1) and (2) of the Renewables Obligation Order 2009.

Input electricity is defined in Article 24(6)(a) of the Renewables Obligation Order 2009 as the total amount of electricity used by that station for purposes directly related to its operation, including for fuel handling, fuel preparation, maintenance and the pumping of water, whether or not that electricity is generated by the station or used while the station is generating electricity.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many onshore wind turbines produced energy for the national grid in August 2011. [73252]

Charles Hendry: Monthly generation data are available for stations accredited under the Renewables Obligation (RO), from Ofgem. However, this is based on station capacity rather than the number of turbines deployed.

Data relating to the number of Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) issued for generation that took place in August 2011 are not currently available. The latest figures, for June 2011, show that 296 RO accredited onshore wind generating stations in the UK received ROCs for electricity generated in that month. This information is publicly available and can be downloaded from Ofgem's website:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations his Department has received from companies involved in the production of onshore wind energy since 1 July 2011; what the nature was of each such representation; and who represented his Department in any meetings that took place with these companies. [73253]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet regularly with representatives of energy suppliers, developers, the wider industry and other stakeholders to discuss issues related to the production of onshore wind energy in the UK.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many secondees from companies involved in wind energy production in the UK are working in his Department; what their roles are; and how long they have been in post. [73254]

Charles Hendry: None.

Wind Power: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the annual load factor of onshore wind in Scotland was *(a)* in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* as an average over the last 10 years. [73405]

Charles Hendry: Annual load factors for onshore wind in Scotland for the years 2001 to 2010, as well as a 10-year average, can be found in the following table:

	Load factor (%)
2001	27.0
2002	29.0
2003	28.0
2004	34.0
2005	30.0
2006	25.8
2007	27.6
2008	29.6
2009	27.9
2010	21.7
Average 2001-10	28.1

Source:
RESTATS Regional Statistics, available at:
https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/historic-regional-statistics/

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers' Licensing Reform

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* consumer organisations, *(b)* airlines and *(c)* representatives of travel agents in relation to proposed changes to the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme. [73947]

Mrs Villiers: The ATOL Reform Consultation took place between the 23 June and 15 September 2011. All parties with an interest in the proposals were invited to respond.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport Department officials and I have discussed the ATOL reform proposals with representatives of consumer organisations, airlines and travel agents during meetings and stakeholder events.

Aviation

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the one bag rule applied by certain airlines; and if he will make a statement. [73958]

Mrs Villiers: The size and number of bags that a passenger is permitted to take on board a commercial aircraft is a matter for airlines to decide as private companies operating in a global market.

Baggage restriction policies and charges can vary considerably between airlines. In most cases, airlines will align their baggage allowances and charging policies in accordance with a number of considerations, for example the size of the aircraft and the distance to destinations. Passengers should always check what is permitted with their airline before they travel.

Cycling

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings his Department has had with the Department of Health on promoting the cycle to work scheme. [73078]

Norman Baker: Earlier this year Department for Transport officials were in dialogue with the Department of Health with regard to inclusion of the cycle to work scheme and Cycle to Work Guarantee in the Public Health Responsibility Deal pledges and guidance.

Information on the Public Health Responsibility Deal is available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Publichealthresponsibilitydeal/index.htm

Driving Tests

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the introduction of *(a)* motorcycle and *(b)* other hazard-based training in car driving tests. [73514]

Mike Penning: The theory test assesses a candidate's knowledge of driving theory, in particular the rules of the road and best driving practice. The wide range of topics covered requires candidates to prepare themselves for questions about other road users, particularly those identified as vulnerable, such as motorcyclists.

An integral part of the practical driving test is assessing how the candidate interacts with other road users, including motorcyclists.

Package Holidays

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many package holidays were booked in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and how many and what proportion of such holidays were sold by (i) tour operators and (ii) airlines. [73948]

Mrs Villiers: The Office for National Statistics has reported that:

(*a*) In 2008 45,531 holidays abroad were taken by UK residents. 17,914 of these were inclusive tours or packages.

(*b*) In 2009 38,492 holidays abroad were taken by UK residents. 14,507 of these were inclusive tours or packages.

(*c*) In 2010 36,422 holidays abroad were taken by UK residents. 14,257 of these were inclusive tours or packages.

There are no data for the number or proportion of package holidays sold by tour operators or airlines.

Rail Value for Money Review

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department expects to respond to the recommendations of the McNulty report. [72668]

Mrs Villiers: The Department's Business Plan sets out that the Government will outline their detailed proposals for the delivery of a sustainable railway before the end of the year.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with Arriva Trains the provision of new rolling-stock and additional carriages on Gloucester to Maesteg passenger rail services. [74025]

Mrs Villiers: Under the Welsh rail devolution arrangements, the Welsh Government are responsible for the management of this route within the Arriva Trains Wales ('ATW') franchise.

Rescue Services

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with EU officials on the UK Coastguards; and what his policy is on the EU adopting a greater role in the control of the UK Coastguard. [72071]

Mike Penning: I have had no discussions with EU officials about the EU adopting a greater role in the control of Her Majesty's Coastguard.

Her Majesty's Coastguard has a long and proud history and has a worldwide reputation for excellence. It already has excellent co-operative arrangements with its neighbours that would not be enhanced by the existence of a pan-European body. Such a body would also be likely to entail unnecessary bureaucracy and cost.

The Government have consistently opposed the idea of an EU Coastguard and will continue to do so.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he made of the ability to deliver the technical requirements of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project when awarding preferred bidder status. [73600]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The evaluation criteria and evaluation process used to assess the ability of a bidder to deliver the technical requirements of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project are contained in the project's Invitation to Tender dated 27 November 2008. A copy is available on the DFT website.

The Department, in conjunction with industry experts and appropriately skilled and experienced technical advisers, assessed each bid against these criteria.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72678]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office uses one travel management company to purchase airline tickets. This company is called Knock Travel and is based in Belfast.

PRIME MINISTER

Art Works

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse was of installing the artwork donated by Tracey Emin in Number 10 Downing street. [73648]

The Prime Minister: There was no cost to the public purse for the installation of the artwork donated by Tracey Emin.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what recent assessment the Public Accounts Commission has made of the efficiency with which the National Audit Office is run. [74057]

Mr Leigh: In November 2010 the National Audit Office presented its Strategy for the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 to the Commission. The Strategy included plans to cut the annual funding required in support of NAO activities by 15% in net terms. The Commission explored the basis of these proposals in depth with senior officials from the NAO and sought to satisfy itself that the strategy would achieve the right balance between maintaining the quality of the audit service provided to Parliament and seeking maximum efficiency in the delivery of this service.

The Commission returned to the subject of the National Audit Office's operational efficiency in March 2011 when it met to approve the National Audit Office estimate for 2011-12 and to consider a value for money report from the external auditors to the National Audit Office on "A review of Corporate Support Costs". This report provided the Commission with an independent assessment of the work being done to secure efficiencies in corporate support functions within the National Audit Office in support of the key performance target of devoting at least 80% of its resources to front-line activities.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

ICT: Theft

Mr Watson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many *(a)* computers and *(b)* mobile telephones have been reported stolen from the parliamentary estate in the last 12 months. [73621]

John Thurso: The number of computers and mobile telephones that have been reported stolen from the Commons part of the parliamentary estate in the last 12 months (October 2010 to October 2011) are as follows:

	Phones	*Computers*
2010		
October	0	0
November	1	0
December	1	0
2011		
January	0	4
February	0	1
March	0	1
April	0	6
May	3	10
June	0	1
July	1	1
August	0	0
September	0	1
October	0	0
Total	6	25

The House authorities and the Metropolitan police have jointly implemented a crime prevention plan, including strong advice to lock up valuable items and to lock office doors at the end of the working day. Nightly security patrols in both Houses report exceptions, which are followed up by the Serjeant at Arms. During these patrols any offices found insecure are now locked.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Abdel Fattah Younis

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of investigations into the death of General Abdel Fattah Younis in Libya. [73270]

Mr Hague: The Libyan National Transitional Council condemned the killing of General Younis swiftly and emphatically, and announced a full investigation if the results of the initial investigation raised serious concerns about events leading up to his assassination and led to changes in the NTC Executive Committee. To date we are aware of two arrests as a result of a criminal investigation, which remains ongoing.

Al-Qaeda

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the strength of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in *(a)* Morocco, *(b)* Algeria, *(c)* Tunisia, *(d)* Libya and *(e)* Egypt. [73269]

Mr Hague: Historically al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb's main focus has been Algeria, but they have also conducted attacks in Tunisia. AQ-M retain the intent to conduct attacks in Morocco and Libya. They have not conducted or attempted to conduct any attacks in Egypt although there is a high threat from terrorism throughout Egypt, including in Sinai.

We are working with international partners and governments in the region to counter the threat from AQ-M and other terrorist groups to ensure they are not able to operate freely and exploit instability to conduct attacks.

Belarus: Human Rights

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to raise human rights issues with the authorities in Belarus. [73291]

Mr Hague: The UK remains at the forefront of efforts within the EU and the wider international community to maintain political pressure on the Belarusian authorities and urge them to adhere to their human rights obligations. We have been working with EU partners to strengthen sanctions against the regime and its backers in an effort to promote positive developments. We believe these efforts have had some effect, as the regime has now released all but seven political prisoners.

We have continued to maintain the pressure in other ways. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe released statements on 6 August and 28 September to call for all political prisoners to be released and rehabilitated immediately. He also called for prisoners to be treated humanely. In a statement at the UN Human Rights Council on 21 September, the UK called for Belarus to end politically motivated harassment and intimidation, conduct a thorough and credible investigation into the allegations of degrading treatment against prisoners and establish a formal moratorium on executions.

In August, the Department co-ordinated a joint letter by 10 EU Ministers of Justice to their Belarusian counterpart to protest about pressure on lawyers defending political prisoners.

At the Eastern Partnership summit in Warsaw on 29 and 30 September, we supported the strong EU statement on Belarus. In the margins of the summit, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Europe met Belarusian opposition figures and human rights defenders.

Our embassy has remained active, observing several of the trials in relation to the violent aftermath of the 19 December presidential election, including those of several ex-Presidential candidates. It also observes protest demonstrations. It uses all appropriate opportunities to raise human rights issues with government officials.

China: Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Chinese Government on standards of animal welfare in fur farms in that country. [73133]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have not raised the standards of animal welfare in fur farms in China with the Chinese Government. However the Government are supportive of work to raise standards of animal welfare at home and overseas. Where appropriate, we support co-ordinated action to promote standards internationally. The UK has been fully supportive of an EU-wide ban on the import, export and sale of domestic cat and dog fur and products containing such fur.

We also welcome the work that non-governmental organisations such as Animals Asia Foundation, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals undertake with the Chinese authorities to improve standards of animal welfare in China.

China: Intellectual Property

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the protection of intellectual property in China. [73277]

Mr Hague: I discuss China regularly with my EU counterparts, most recently at the Foreign Affairs Council in Luxembourg on 10 October. The protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in China is a priority for the UK.

Ahead of the EU-China summit on 25 October, my officials have held discussions with the EU and fellow member states on enhancing EU-China trade and addressing market barriers, including strengthening IPR in China. In particular, the UK would like China to ensure that there is effective and consistent enforcement of IPR across the country. Officials at our embassy in Beijing co-ordinate closely with EU colleagues on IPR issues.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department plans to provide to women's organisations and human rights activists in relation to the armed conflict in Colombia in each of the next four financial years. [73383]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our embassy in Bogota has a wide-ranging and active programme of support for human rights defenders. This includes individuals and groups, including women's organisations. We visit groups to show our visible support and regularly raise our concerns with the Colombian Government.

We fund specific projects through our Human Rights and Democracy Fund. These funds are allocated according to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's human rights priorities each year. The level of support the UK Government will provide in each of the next four financial years has not yet been decided. This year, the UK Government funded four projects totalling approximately £322,647. This included the development of a public policy on the protection of human rights defenders.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Colombia on crimes of sexual violence against women and children during the armed conflict in that country. [73387]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government condemn all forms of violence against women and children.

We regularly call on the Colombian authorities to investigate human rights abuses fully and to take the necessary steps to protect those at risk including women and children.

Colombia: Politics and Government

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Colombia on the progress made in investigating *(a)* the death of Antonio Mendoza Morales and *(b)* threats made against other members of the National Victims' Movement. [73465]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not to date made representations to the Colombian Government about this case. A Mr Jaider Ortega Jimenez has been arrested by the Colombian police and charged with the murder of Mr Antonio Mendoza Morales. Our embassy in Bogota will continue to monitor the progress of the trial and raise any concerns with the Colombian Government should it prove necessary.

Officials at our embassy in Bogota have made several representations to the Head of the Presidential Programme on Human Rights and International Law in the cases of members of the National Victims' Movement. We will continue to raise our concerns with senior members of the Colombian Government.

Libya: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with members of the National Transitional Council of Libya on the inclusion of women in decision-making processes. [74016]

Alistair Burt: Both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs have stressed to the National Transitional Council (NTC) the importance of creating an inclusive political system and Libyan society that brings in all sections of the Libyan population, including women. British officials have discussed this with the NTC representative for Women's Issues, Dr Salwa al-Daghaili, and have also engaged with the NTC on plans for building a strong civil society.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how his Department plans to support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Libya. [74017]

Alistair Burt: The Government are committed to their obligations under UNSCR 1325. We recognise the role played by Libyan women in supporting the revolution, and their participation and leadership within civil society more broadly. The UK is engaging with women across Libyan society to determine how best to provide support. We are also working closely with the EU to assess what support the international community can provide on this issue.

South China Sea: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of potential threats to regional political stability arising from different territorial claims in the South China sea. [73279]

Mr Hague: The South China sea is a vital global trade artery. The UK has a strong interest in the maintenance of stability and freedom of navigation in the region. We encourage all parties to resolve their territorial disputes peacefully, in line with international law. We call on all parties to show restraint and abide by international norms for the safe conduct of vessels at sea.

Syria: Diplomatic Service

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions he has had discussions with the Syrian ambassador on the activities of his diplomatic staff in relation to meetings with the diaspora. [74312]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not discussed Syrian embassy activities with the Syrian ambassador.

On 28 June the Syrian ambassador was invited in to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where FCO officials made clear our strong concerns about allegations that a diplomat at the Syrian embassy had been intimidating Syrians in Britain. The message was clear, that any such activity would amount to a clear breach of acceptable behaviour and if such claims were substantiated, we would respond swiftly and appropriately.

Syria: Sanctions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of sanctions on Syria. [73273]

Mr Hague: Sanctions imposed by the EU on Syria are aimed at putting pressure on President Assad and his regime to stop the killings and repression of the Syrian people, and allow for their legitimate aspirations to be met. These sanctions have also set pace for action in the wider international community. The recent decision by the EU to impose a ban on the purchase, import or transport from Syria of crude oil and petroleum products, where the EU previously imported well over 90% of Syria's crude oil, has deprived the Syrian regime of a major income stream to help fund its repression.

Sanctions are not aimed at the Syrian people but at those responsible for the regime's violent repression. They are also aimed at those who support or benefit from the regime's violence: these people must recognise the consequences of their actions and step away from the regime.

Yemen: Foreign Relations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next Friends of Yemen meeting will be held. [73060]

Alistair Burt: The last Friends of Yemen meeting scheduled for March 2011 in Riyadh was rightly postponed at the request of the Government of Yemen, in light of the political impasse and violence on the streets. Our focus now is on helping Yemen achieve stability through a political transition in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative. Once this has been agreed and implementation has begun, I consider there will once again be a role for the group in assisting Yemen to restructure and reform to address its social, economic, security and development needs.

Yemen: UN Resolutions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on a possible UN resolution on the situation in Yemen. [73754]

Alistair Burt: The humanitarian, economic and security situations in Yemen continue to deteriorate as President Saleh fails to agree formally the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative to enact political transition. We have for months discussed with international partners what more we can do to resolve the political impasse, and a UN Security Council Resolution is one option.

TREASURY

Andy Coulson

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he provided to the Prime Minister on the appointment of Mr Andy Coulson as Director of Communications at 10 Downing street; and if he will make a statement. [68073]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* Treasury Ministers hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many conversations he has had with Mr Andy Coulson since 20 January 2011. [68074]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* HM Treasury does not hold this information. Mr Coulson has resigned from his position as the Prime Minister's Director of Communications and Planning.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67179]

Justine Greening: It would not be proportionate to do so.

Dorneywood

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a list of visitors he has hosted at Dorneywood who have received Government hospitality. [68116]

Justine Greening: Cabinet Ministers have published their meetings with media editors, proprietors and senior executives since the general election and these will in future be published quarterly.

Details of meetings are published on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/transparency_chx_meetings_with_media_260711.pdf

A list of guests who have received official hospitality at Dorneywood during 2010-11 will be published in the usual way.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he is taking to make it easier for eligible policy holders to contact the Equitable Life Payment Scheme; [73921]

(2) how long it takes on average to answer calls to the Equitable Life Payment Scheme enquiry line; [73971]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure telephone calls to the Equitable Life Payment Scheme are answered. [74321]

Mr Hoban: The Equitable Life Payment Scheme can be contacted via telephone, e-mail and post. In addition an extensive website has been established to answer policyholder's frequently asked questions. The average time that a caller has to wait before their call is answered by the Equitable Life Payment Scheme enquiry line is six seconds. This is in line with the service level agreement with NS&I that 90% of calls to the line are answered within 20 seconds.

Council Tax

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households are in each council tax band in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* parliamentary constituency. [73875]

Mr Gauke: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) publishes counts of dwellings by council tax band for each local authority in England and Wales on a quarterly basis. Figures for the end of June 2011 can be found on the VOA website in the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/statisticalReleases/110714_CouncilTaxValuationListSummary.html

This publication will be updated on 13 October 2011 to include statistics for the end of September 2011.

The VOA intends to publish equivalent Official Statistics for each parliamentary constituency from April 2012. Details of this release and other statistical releases will be made available via the Statistics Releases timetable on the VOA website at the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/publications/statisticalReleaseTimetable.html

Job Creation: Private Sector

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the increase in private sector jobs was represented by the contracting out of former public sector jobs in each of the last three quarters. [73403]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the increase in private sector jobs was represented by the contracting out of former public sector jobs in each of the last three quarters. 73403

I regret that the requested information is not available from any of the sources used for official labour market statistics.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 8 September 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North, reference 1/94542/2011. [73922]

Justine Greening: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 October 2011.

Neil Wallis

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his private office staff, *(c)* his special advisers and *(d)* press officers in his Department had contact by (i) telephone and (ii) email with Neil Wallis in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011; [68183]

(2) what communications *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his private office and *(d)* (i) press officers, (ii) other officials and (iii) special advisers of his Department have had by (A) e-mail, (B) meeting, (C) telephone call and (D) letter with Neil Wallis since his appointment; and on what dates. [68737]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* Records of the Treasury's phone calls, meetings, emails and other correspondence is not held centrally. Cabinet Ministers have published their meetings with media editors, proprietors and senior executives since the general election and these will in future be published quarterly.

Details of meetings are published on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/transparency_chx_meetings_with_media_260711.pdf

Permanent Secretaries and special advisers meetings with newspaper and other media proprietors, editors and senior executives will also now be published on a quarterly basis.

News International

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met *(a)* James Murdoch, *(b)* Rebekah Brooks and *(c)* Andy Coulson. [67363]

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a list of all meetings he has had with *(a)* proprietors, *(b)* senior executives and *(c)* editors of media organisations since his appointment. [68117]

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date and at what venue he has met *(a)* executives of, *(b)* other representatives of and *(c)* journalists working for News International since his appointment. [68075]

Justine Greening: Unlike the previous Government, Cabinet Ministers have published their meetings with media editors, proprietors and senior executives since the general election and these will in future be published quarterly.

Details of meetings are published on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/transparency_chx_meetings_with_media_260711.pdf

Working Tax Credit

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* transitional arrangements and *(b)* additional services will be put in place for couples with children who work between 16 and 24 hours a week and will lose their entitlement to working tax credit unless they increase their hours of work to over 24 hours a week. [72540]

Mr Gauke: Couples with children will continue to qualify for working tax credit where at least one member of a couple works at least 16 hours per week and that person is eligible for the working tax credit disability element or is aged 60 or over.

Couples with children where one partner is being paid a carer's allowance as a full time carer of their partner will also continue to qualify where working 16 hours or more a week.

Couples with children may also qualify for working tax credit if one member of a couple works at least 16 hours a week and a qualifying sickness or disability benefit, for example, incapacity benefit is payable for the other.

HMRC is not planning to make any transitional arrangements or provide additional services for couples with children who may lose entitlement to working tax credit as a result of the change to the working hours conditions in April 2012.

HMRC will be writing to those who may be affected before the end of this year to advise them of the change and what they need to do if they wish to continue to qualify for working tax credit.

EDUCATION

Vocational Guidance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what procedures are in place to monitor local authorities' levels of compliance with their statutory duty to provide careers guidance; what recent estimate he has made of the rate of compliance by local authorities; and what steps he will take to ensure that local authorities perform their statutory duty. [71751]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 14 September 2011]:* Local authorities retain a responsibility to encourage, enable and assist young people's participation in education or training, under section 68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008. There is no statutory duty on local authorities to provide careers guidance but given their duty to support young people to participate, many do so as the best means of meeting that duty. In advance of the new duty coming into force which will give schools responsibility for securing access to independent careers guidance, the Early Intervention Grant supports local authorities' transitional responsibilities for careers guidance and their ongoing role in supporting young people not in education, employment or training to participate.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education has powers to intervene if a local authority is failing to meet its statutory duties. Any case for intervention will be based on clear evidence of outcomes demonstrating the extent to which young people in an area are participating in education or training, rather than specific inputs such as the way youth support services are organised.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Democracy

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department work in roles relating to policy on *(a)* regeneration and *(b)* local democracy. [71921]

Robert Neill: All civil servants are employed to provide impartial advice to Ministers and the Department's staff work flexibly and are often deployed on a number of different policies, programmes or projects at the same time. As at the end of August 109 staff worked in the Local Government, Policy and Productivity Directorate and 280 in the Local Economy, Regeneration and European Programmes Directorate including 204 staff who are involved in the direct delivery of European Regional Development Fund programmes.

Staff in these two Directorates are the most closely associated with the Department's regeneration and local democracy work but not all are deployed on those areas and some only partially so. There are other staff from different Directorates who are flexibly deployed for a short time to these areas or whose work, while not primarily focussed on either, also support the Department's efforts.

These figures include a number of staff who will leave the Department's employment by October 2012 due to internal restructuring.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that will be created by enterprise zones in the next period for which figures are available. [70810]

Greg Clark: According to estimates made by the relevant local enterprise partnerships, the 11 successful enterprise zones announced in the recent competition expect to create over 30,000 new jobs by 2015.

Freedom of Information

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on freedom of information, if he will place in the Library a copy of the archived Government Procurement Card invoices and spending records for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [60994]

Robert Neill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister became a separate Department in May 2002 and existed until May 2006 when it was reformed as the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Records of Government Procurement Card invoices and spending records are not available from May 2002 to March 2004. The Department does hold Government Procurement Card spending (transaction) records from April 2004 until April 2006, but as was explained in my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Dover (Charlie Elphicke), on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 57W, these records were contaminated by cloned cards.

These records have now been placed in the Library of the House.

The fraudulent (cloned) transactions are shown as credits back to the account but with the lapse of time it is no longer possible to cross check these records against invoice and investigation records kept at the time. Identification and retrieval of actual invoices could be accomplished only at disproportionate cost.

Please note that the records we hold were supplied by the Card issuing company (Barclays). The term 'Merchant Category' is a broad description employed by the banks to designate the business where the card was used, not the type of product purchased.

Departmental guidance is clear that any unauthorised or unknown transactions appearing on card transaction reports (invoices) such as cloned card incidents must be reported immediately to the card issuing company. Under the terms of the contract any financial loss arising from this type of fraudulent activity is the responsibility of the card issuing company who will take forward any investigation. There will be no threat/risk to departmental funds.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

Government Procurement Card

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Government Procurement Cards were compromised or cloned in each year *(a)* since the creation of his Department and *(b)* during the lifetime of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; and what the estimated amount of fraudulent transactions was in each year. [72386]

Robert Neill: The number of Government Procurement Cards cancelled because they were compromised or used in external fraud (which would include cloned cards) are in the following table:

	Calendar year	*Card compromised*	*Card fraud*	*Total*
(a) Department of Communities and Local Government	2011	1	2	3
	2010	3	1	4
	2009	0	5	5
	2008	3	2	5
	2007	0	2	2
	2006	0	3	3
(b) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	2006	0	1	1
	2005	0	13	13

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister existed from May 2002 until May 2006. No records of cancelled cards are held prior to 2005.

Estimates of the amounts of fraudulent transactions are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Compromised cards are cards where there is a risk that the card number could become known to a third party. These cards are cancelled to prevent any fraudulent activity. Fraud occurs when the card is lost or stolen and is used by a third party. This would also include cases where the card number has been cloned.

Government Procurement Card transaction records for the period 1 April 2004 to 30 April 2006 (when the Department was the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) have now been deposited in the Library of the House as a response to PQ60994, answered on 13 October. Transaction records from April 2002 until March 2004 are no longer held.

Departmental guidance is clear that any unauthorised or unknown transactions appearing on GPC transaction reports (invoices) such as cloned card incidents must be reported immediately to the card issuing company. Under the terms of the contract any financial loss arising from this type of fraudulent activity is the responsibility of the card issuing company who will take forward any investigation. There will be no threat/risk to departmental funds.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dover of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 57W, on the Government Procurement Card, (1) whether any of the cards were used abroad for transactions before they were cloned; and whether the fraudulent usage included foreign expenditure on the cloned cards; [72426]

(2) whether the transactions made on cloned cards were reported to the police; [72427]

(3) which offices within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had their Government Procurement Card cloned; [72428]

(4) what the estimated *(a)* number and *(b)* value was of transactions that were made on cloned cards during the time that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister existed. [72429]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Procurement Card transaction records for the period 1 April 2004 to 30 April 2006 (when the Department was the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) have now been deposited in the Library of the House as a response to PQ60994 answered on 13 October. Transaction records from April 2002 until March 2004 are no longer held.

Departmental guidance is clear that any unauthorised or unknown transactions appearing on Government Procurement Card transaction reports (invoices) such as cloned card incidents must be reported immediately to the card issuing company. Under the terms of the contract any financial loss arising from this type of fraudulent activity is the responsibility of the card issuing company who will take forward any investigation. There will be no threat/risk to departmental funds.

Green Belt

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that the green belt is protected from development; and if he will make a statement. [74062]

Robert Neill: The coalition agreement committed the Government to maintaining green belt protection. National policy on green belt protection—in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, Green Belts—is being updated as part of the National Planning Policy Framework, on which we are currently consulting. The draft framework includes rigorous policies for the continued protection of green belt from inappropriate development. Moreover, our proposed abolition of the unpopular regional strategies, through the Localism Bill, will remove top-down pressure on councils to review the extent of their green belt. This was likely to affect more than 30 areas across England. In addition, the draft new guidance on Traveller sites seeks to increase planning protection for the green belt.

Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research into the cost of complying with planning regulations in the UK compared to other countries; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any such research. [71926]

Greg Clark: My Department seeks to take account of all relevant research when developing policy.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what status an emergent local plan has in the determination of planning appeals; and if he will make a statement. [74060]

Robert Neill: The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 38(6), requires that decisions on planning applications must be made in accordance with a council's development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

It is clear from case law that plans that are in the course of preparation may be taken into account, under section 38(6), as a material consideration in making planning decisions. Paragraph 18 of The Planning System: General Principles 2005 sets out that account can be taken of policies in emerging development plan documents, but the weight to be attached depends upon the stage of the preparation or review, increasing as successive stages are reached. A decision maker can accord weight to an emerging plan, but the matter of weighting is for the decision maker.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Registration

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the introduction of individual electoral registration on the number of people registered to vote; [74029]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in the numbers of electors registered in the electoral register in *(a)* Livingston constituency and *(b)* Scotland following implementation of proposals for individual electoral registration. [74030]

Mr Harper: The Government are funding research to understand the current state of the electoral register which will help us to better understand the way in which the move to individual registration will have an impact.

The Government will do everything they can to maintain the completeness of the electoral register. This includes phasing in the move to Individual Registration over two years so that people on the register who do not apply under the new system do not lose their vote at the 2015 General Election. Every eligible elector will be asked in 2014 to register under the new system: this will include personal invites to people on the register, inquiries to households where no one is registered or people have moved, reminder letters and face to face doorstep canvassers. There will also be a publicity campaign run by the Electoral Commission and we are testing data matching to identify people missing from the register and looking at how we can increase the choices people have over how to register, including greater use of online registration.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 768W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, how much his Department spent in total on the *(a)* construction and *(b)* improvement of tarmac roads in Afghanistan from the start of military operations in 2001 to 2007. [74015]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Between 2001 and 2007 the Department provided £50 million in funding through multi-donor trust funds attributable to infrastructure development, in part to support the construction and improvement of tarmac roads in Afghanistan. It would not be possible to assess what proportion of these works consisted of tarmac roads, except at disproportionate cost.

Burma: Internally Displaced People

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has had access to internally displaced people at the Kachin-China border; and whether his Department has provided food and medical assistance to those people. [73420]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development (DFID) staff are in regular contact with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with access to internally displaced people in Kachin State, Burma. DFID staff have not themselves had access to the China-Burma border. I have agreed that funding through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and a humanitarian NGO already working in the area may be used to assist people displaced by recent conflict in Kachin State.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide funding to the Kachin Women's Association Thailand for emergency relief in Kachin State, Burma. [73419]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department of International Development (DFID) has carefully considered a funding request from the Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT) for emergency relief in Kachin State Burma. DFID staff have recently informed KWAT that we are not able to support this request. I have however agreed that funding through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and a humanitarian non-governmental organisation already working in the area may be used to assist people displaced by recent conflict in Kachin State.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Kachin State, Burma since 9 June 2011. [73421]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development (DFID) staff have been closely monitoring the humanitarian situation in Kachin State following the outbreak of conflict earlier this year. We are in contact with a number of organisations working in the affected areas, both from inside Burma and from across the border in China. We understand that as many as 20,000 people have been displaced by recent fighting. I have agreed that funding through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and a humanitarian non-governmental organisation already working in the area may be used to assist displaced people in Kachin State.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72483]

Mr Duncan: For financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 the resource budget allocation for the Office of the DFID chief scientific adviser has been estimated at £123,000, £123,000 and £125,000 respectively. This does not include the cost of employing the chief scientific adviser.

For 2009-10, 2010-11 the resource budget allocation was £219,000 per year which does not include the cost of the chief scientific adviser.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72484]

Mr Duncan: The chief scientific adviser is a secondment into the civil service and is not paid directly by DFID. As a secondee the chief scientific adviser stays on the same terms and conditions as the seconding institution, although DFID reimburses the seconding institution for this service.

Two individuals have held this position in the last five years.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72485]

Mr Duncan: In 2007 and 2008 two full-time equivalent staff were employed in this office in addition to the chief scientific adviser.

In 2009, 2010 and 2011 3.3 full-time equivalent staff were employed in this office in addition to the chief scientific adviser.

The office of the chief scientific adviser was established in DFID in January 2005.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72486]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My Department is committed to handling science and engineering advice in accordance with the Government chief scientific adviser's "Guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making",

(a) We do not have any agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

(b) We do not ask contractors to provide a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. However, this comes through the technical evaluation of proposals and our contracts require providers to sign up to our terms and conditions, which include general standard obligations to carry out the services with skill, diligence, efficiency, economy and to satisfy accepted professional standards. DFID's terms and conditions are more specific on personnel standards (this extends to sub-contractors), data management, corruption policy, conflict of interest, discrimination and environmental standards. For quality assurance we request peer review of proposals and outputs during commissioning of research, at annual monitoring and evaluation reviews and at completion of the contract. All published research is also peer reviewed.

Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on provision of support from his Department's private sector department for companies involved in dirty fossil fuel energy production. [73013]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID) support for energy projects, whether through the public or private sectors, is based on a central premise of a presumption away from coal and that all cleaner forms of energy are thoroughly considered before concluding that coal is an option. Were a fossil fuel project to be considered, DFID would also ensure that there is compelling poverty reduction rationale; that the best available and appropriate technology is used; that every effort to reduce emissions is made and that there is an assessment of the technical and economic feasibility for CCS readiness.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74397]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office expects its staff to abide by the law when travelling on official business. If a member of staff broke the law (for example by parking illegally, exceeding the speed limit, using a mobile phone when driving) they would be obliged to pay any fine themselves. The Department's policy makes it clear that managers must not reimburse any costs associated with breaking the law.

Procurement

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that companies providing services to the Government are not adversely affected by price fluctuation indices created by the Office for National Statistics. [73477]

Mr Maude: As Government contracts are openly competed, it is normal practice that any risk arising from price fluctuations is borne by the supplier.

For projects where base material and other prices are highly volatile, it would be logical for there to be discussions involving client, designers and (potential) suppliers at an early stage to address the risks and decide on any necessary contractual provisions.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73729]

Mr Maude: From 2006-07 to 2009-10 there are no records held centrally of any cash withdrawals in the Department.

Public Sector: Mutual Societies

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many letters on public service mutuals he has received in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [74020]

Mr Maude: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what meetings he has had in his Department with *(a)* voluntary sector organisations and *(b)* those interested in public service mutuals policy in each month since 1 June 2011. [74022]

Mr Hurd: Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for meetings since 1 June 2011 will be published in due course.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what work his Department commissioned from civil society organisations in each month since June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [74018]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office does not hold a central record of work commissioned from civil society organisations. The Office for Civil Society works very closely with this sector and the following table summarises recent work it has commissioned.

	Details of work commissioned
2010	
August	Care and Share Associates, Sunderland Home Care Associates, GLL, and Lord Adebowale from Turning Point announced as providers of pro bono mentoring support to a series of Mutual Pathfinders. The precise form and focus of the mentoring is agreed between the mentor and the pathfinder, rather than being directly commissioned through Cabinet Office.
2011	
February	Locality appointed to deliver the Community Organisers programme. V and Catch 22—To jointly lead a project on volunteering with and to support children and young people. Innovation Unit, Mutual Ventures, the Cooperative College and FosterCare Cooperative announced as providers of pro bono mentoring support to a series of Mutual Pathfinders as described above.
March	OCS appointed nine strategic partners to represent the VCSE sector to Government and vice versa, and to support the development and delivery of Big Society. The partners are: ACEVO in partnership with Euclid Network and New Philanthropy Capital; Community Foundation Network in partnership with Association of Charitable Foundations; Institute of Fundraising; Locality; NAVCA; NCVO; Social Entrepreneurship Partnership; Social Enterprise UK in partnership with Cooperatives UK; Volunteering England.
April	Volunteering England—To lead on sharing learning from other projects with the wider voluntary and community sector. Age UK—To lead a project on volunteering in health and social care. Arts and Business—To lead a project on volunteering in Culture and the Arts. Groundwork West Midlands—To lead a project on volunteering in relation to the environment. Youthnet appointed to run the Do-it volunteering database.
May	Volunteering England—To lead a project on Employer Supported Volunteering. Volunteer Centre Warrington—To lead a project on Volunteer Management. Attend—To lead a project on opening the door to volunteering to under-represented groups. Sir Ronald Cohen and Nick O'Donohoe, acting as independent advisers to Government on the Big Society Bank, put forward an outline proposal for Big Society Capital that was accepted by Government on 9 May.
June	Sports Coach UK—To lead a project on volunteering in sport. Community Development Foundation appointed to deliver the Community First programme.
August	Community Matters has been commissioned to report on what Big Society means for the groups it represents. Voice4Change England has been commissioned to report on what Big Society means for the groups it represents. Women's Resource Centre has been commissioned to report on what Big Society means for the groups it represents. Research commissioned from National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) titled "Study of the causes of youth involvement in the riots August 2011".
September	Community Service Volunteers—To lead on the launch of the European Year Tour. Nesta appointed to run the Innovation in Giving Fund.
October	Urban Forum has been commissioned to report on what Big Society means for the groups it represents. 12 grants awarded to civil society organisations for the provision of National Citizen Service pilots. Social Investment Business appointed to run the Social Action Fund.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what visits to voluntary sector organisations *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* senior officials in his Department have made in each month since 1 June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [74021]

Mr Hurd: I and my officials frequently visit voluntary sector organisations across all regions of the country. I also host regular meetings with various organisations as well as continuing the practice of inviting all MPs to bring local voluntary sector organisations to the Cabinet Office for meetings. Since 1 June 2011, I have visited over 20 such organisations in the UK.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many letters on funding of the voluntary sector he has received in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [74019]

Mr Hurd: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Voluntary Work

Mark Menzies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to encourage people to become community organisers and activists. [73642]

Mr Hurd: Locality, the National Partner appointed by Government to deliver the Community Organisers Programme has a key role in raising awareness about the opportunities this programme presents. Locality has ensured that the host organisations are using a consistent job description and process across England to recruit the senior community organisers locally. They have used:

Local press
Internet
Word of mouth
Existing networks and contacts
Small open events.

Overall, over 1,000 people applied for the role of a senior community organiser for the first tranche, from which 47 were selected.

Nationally, the programme's opportunities have also been disseminated via Locality's and Community Development Foundation's networks.

As part of the work of the senior community organisers, they will over time identify and recruit local volunteer organisers.

To find out more about the programme, please visit:

http://www.cocollaborative.org.uk/

DEFENCE

Armed Forces

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* service, *(b)* location and *(c)* strength is of each military band. [73599]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The following table lists the number of bands by service, location and strength:

Band name	*Location*	*Strength*
Naval Service		
The Band HM Royal Marines	Portsmouth	66
The Band HM Royal Marines	Plymouth	56
The Band HM Royal Marines	Collingwood	57
The Band HM Royal Marines Commando Training Centre	Lympstone	50
The Band HM Royal Marines Scotland	Rosyth	49
Army		
The Band of the Life Guards	London	31
The Band of the Blues and Royals	Windsor	29
The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band	Catterick	29
The Light Cavalry Band	Bovington	29
The Royal Artillery Band	Woolwich	42
The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers	Chatham	27
The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals	Blandford Forum	27
Band of the Grenadier Guards	London	40
Band of the Coldstream Guards	London	40
Band of the Scots Guards	London	38
Band of the Irish Guards	London	37
Band of the Welsh Guards	London	40
The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland	Edinburgh	29
The Minden Band of the Queen's Division	Cambridge	27
The Band of the King's Division	Preston	30
The Band of the Prince of Wales' Division	Tidworth	28
The Band and Bugles of the Rifles	Winchester	29
The Band of the Parachute Regiment	Colchester	28
The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas	Shorncliffe	[1]—
The Band of the Army Air Corps	Middle Wallop	28
The Band of the Royal Logistic Corps	Camberley	28
The Band of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Arborfield	28
The Band of the Adjutant General's Corps	Worthy Down	26
The Army Big Band	Twickenham	[2]33
British Army Brass Band	Twickenham	[2]35
Corps of Army Music Sinfonietta	Twickenham	[2]24
The Honourable Artillery Company Band	London	[2]14
The Band of the Royal Yeomanry	London	[2]27
The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band	Bolton	[2]27
The Nottinghamshire Band of the Royal Engineers	Nottingham	[2]31
The Royal Signals (Northern) Band	Darlington	[2]29
The Lowland Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland	Edinburgh	[2]30
The Highland Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland	Perth	[2]29
The Band of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment	Canterbury	[2]33
The Band of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	Liverpool	[2]19
The Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	[2]21
The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment	Peterborough	[2]19
The Band of the Yorkshire Regiment	Huddersfield	[2]21
The Band of the Mercian Regiment	Wolverhampton	[2]34
The Band of the Royal Welsh	Gwent	[2]36
The Salamanca Band of the Rifles	Exeter	[2]22
The Waterloo Band of the Rifles	Abingdon	[2]30
The Band of the Royal Irish Regiment	Holyrood	[3]1 [2]24
The Band of the 150th (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers)	Kingston upon Hull	[2]31
Army Medical Services Band	Camberley	29
The Volunteer Band of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment	Gibraltar	29
Royal Air Force		
The Central Band of the Royal Air Force	Northolt	81
The Band of the Royal Air Force College	Sleaford	37
The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment	Sleaford	39

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[1] One UKTAP plus 34 Gurkhas.

[2] Territorial Army.

[3] UKTAP denotes United Kingdom Trained Adult Personnel.

Armed Forces: Helicopters

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the marinisation of Merlin helicopters on RAF Benson; and if he will make a statement; [73694]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the implications of marinisation of Merlin helicopters for their capacity to fly hot and high; and if he will make a statement; [73695]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the implications of marinisation for the weight of Merlin helicopters; and if he will make a statement; [73696]

(4) how many Merlin helicopters have been selected for marinisation; and if he will make a statement; [73697]

(5) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the marinisation of the Merlin helicopter; and if he will make a statement. [73698]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is currently exploring options as part of the concept phase for the Merlin Life sustainment programme. It is therefore too early in the programme to be able to confirm details regarding cost, scope and aircraft weight and performance.

The implications of future helicopter plans for RAF Benson will be better understood upon conclusion of the Defence rotary wing capability study, which is expected towards the end of this year.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of providing military security in Northern Ireland was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available (i) in cash terms, (ii) in current prices and (iii) as a percentage of the UK's total defence expenditure. [71495]

Nick Harvey: For the purposes of answering this question the cost of providing military security has been interpreted to mean the costs of maintaining a military presence in the Province.

The data requested are shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Cash outturn (£ million)*	*Current prices (£ million)*	*Percentage of total outturn*
1997-98	508	696	[1]2.3
2010-11	69	69	[2]0.2

[1] Departmental Outturn for 1997-98—£21,517 million.
[2] Departmental Outturn for 2010-11—£39,461 million.

The reduction in expenditure is a result of the reduction in the military presence in Northern Ireland after the end of Operation Banner in 2007.

Armed Forces: Young People

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to encourage young people to join *(a)* the Army Cadet Force and *(b)* the Combined Cadet Force. [74066]

Peter Luff: There are a number of initiatives at national, regional and local levels which encourage young people to join their local cadet unit. These include websites for each of the Cadet Forces, activity on social networking websites and recruiting events in local communities. However, the best recruiting tool is the enthusiasm of cadets themselves, encouraging their friends to join so they can take part in the exciting and challenging programmes our Cadet Forces offer. In the case of the Combined Cadet Force, the head teacher's support is key and we bolster this support through regular briefings and our work with the Combined Cadet Force Associations. Furthermore, last summer the Under-Secretary of State for Defence with responsibility for Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan), commissioned a review into Defence's Youth Engagement activities which will include related issues.

Arms Trade: Exports

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* Royal Air Force personnel promoting defence exports has been in the last 12 months. [73596]

Mr Gerald Howarth *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* Ministers support defence and security exports through an active and innovative defence diplomacy initiative. Details of all ministerial visits overseas are published online quarterly under Ministerial Overseas Travel at the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/

The website details the purpose of the visit along with the cost. Visits are not always for export purposes, however Ministers travelling overseas will promote defence and security exports wherever appropriate. Support to defence exports is enshrined in Military Tasks and is an important part of the RAF Engagement Strategy.

The RAF has traditionally provided participation at defence trade exhibits and airshows alongside briefings and demonstrations on request from the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) on an ad hoc basis and does not keep records of these services as a distinct activity.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of military operations in Libya since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [74313]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 30WS.

Planning Permission: Sevenoaks

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assurances he sought regarding future planning use prior to the disposal of Chelsfield Ammunition Depot at Badgers Mount, Sevenoaks. [73547]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* As a result of inquiries to the local planning authority a statement was included in the marketing particulars for the Chelsfield site. This read:

> "The site is located within the greenbelt and there will be a presumption against redevelopment. Sevenoaks District Council has verbally informed GVA Grimley [MOD's commercial disposal agents] that the site has a Sui Generis [unique] use class. Further planning enquiries should be made of Sevenoaks District Council."

Reserve Forces: Teachers

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of reservists are members of the teaching profession. [74067]

Peter Luff: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number of units and *(b)* monetary value of alcohol sold at a price below duty plus VAT in the last year. [73551]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 12 October 2011]*: The Impact Assessment on banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT will be published by the Home Office later in the autumn. The Impact Assessment estimates the costs and benefits of a duty plus VAT policy as well as the estimated reduction in alcohol consumption and alcohol related hospital admissions and violent incidents.

Asylum

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance her Department provides to Sri Lankan nationals who have not been successful in a UK asylum application and have been deported to Sri Lanka. [74218]

Damian Green: We prefer individuals who have no right to remain in the UK to leave voluntarily. The UK Border Agency operates assisted voluntary return schemes, administered by Refugee Action's Choices service, which provide various reintegration assistance packages to help individuals and families to return home with dignity and support.

For charter flight operations we currently make a small discretionary payment to enable returnees to travel to their home town or village. We also ensure that a UK Government representative is present at the airport.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications from Sri Lankan nationals have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in each of the last 10 years. [74229]

Damian Green: The number of asylum applications, excluding dependants, from nationals of Sri Lanka that have been *(a)* granted asylum on initial decisions and *(b)* refused asylum on initial decisions are provided as follows:

Asylum applications and initial decisions[1, 2, 3] for main applicants, nationals of Sri Lanka

Principal applicants

	Total applications	*Total initial decisions*	*Total grants*	*Grants of asylum*	*Grants of HP*	*Grants of DL*	*Grants of ELR*	*Total refusals*	*Total withdrawals*
2001	5,511	10,350	1,979	1,441	—	—	538	8,371	59
2002	3,131	4,284	615	338	—	—	277	3,669	29
2003	705	1,472	117	18	0	44	55	1,355	33
2004	332	721	98	10	1	87	—	623	63
2005	396	518	64	6	0	58	—	454	147
2006	525	431	62	5	0	57	—	369	71
2007	988	936	124	67	2	55	—	812	16
2008	1,473	874	206	146	1	59	—	668	55
2009	1,115	1,251	190	133	1	56	—	1,061	55
2010	1,357	1,612	228	186	0	42	—	1,384	61

[1] 2009 and 2010 figures are provisional.

[2] Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) replaced exceptional leave to remain (ELR) from 1 April 2003.

These data were published in Table as.01 of Immigration Statistics: April-June 2011. Further information on asylum application outcomes is available from the Immigration Statistics release available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding asylum cases under the legacy programme there were as of 1 September 2011. [72077]

Damian Green: The agency completed its review of all cases in the legacy cohort at the end of March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme and as Jonathan Sedgwick reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 12 September, the majority (479,000) have been fully concluded.

The UK Border Agency is actively managing around 18,000 cases which have been progressed to the furthest possible point but barriers to their removal remain, such as ongoing litigation, impending prosecution, incomplete legal or criminal proceedings, non-compliance or because they are from difficult to remove countries. These cases are being actively progressed and will be concluded when those barriers have been lifted.

The UK Border Agency will also continue to monitor and complete checks on 98,000 cases which were placed in the Controlled Archive because the individuals could not be traced. The agency will reactivate cases where new information comes to light that allows cases to be progressed and concluded.

The Agency completed its review of all cases in the legacy cohort at the end of March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme and the majority (455,000) have been fully concluded.

The UK Border Agency established the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) to actively manage those 23,000 cases which had been reviewed but had barriers to conclusion. All these cases have been decided and communicated to the applicants.

The CAAU has now fully concluded 1,500 of those cases. They have also issued around 3,000 grants which are subject to information from the applicant in order to complete a final security check.

The UK Border Agency is actively managing around 18,000 cases which have been caseworked to the furthest possible point but barriers to their removal remain, such as ongoing litigation, impending prosecution, incomplete legal or criminal proceedings, non-compliance or because they are from difficult to remove countries. These cases are being actively caseworked and will be concluded when those barriers have been lifted.

Note:

All figures rounded to the nearest 500.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made on the implementation of the new asylum processing system. [73057]

Damian Green: The Asylum Improvement Project was set up to explore new ways to speed up the processing of asylum applications. We have already seen improvement outcomes from this project which include:

replacing the old PSA target with a new performance framework to ensure that the whole system remains in balance;

introducing better, shorter guidance for case owners on sensitive issues, including gender;

revision of our policies for dealing with applications from lesbian and gay asylum seekers.

The improvements that we have made to our processes have already had a positive impact on performance:

Eurostat statistics show that in June 2010 there were nearly 7,720 asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their application. In July 2011 that had reduced to 5,670 and this is despite an increase in applications.

We are making decisions more quickly. On average 59% of applications now receive a decision within 30 days.

Our internal audit process shows that the quality of our decisions has remained high.

The cost of the asylum support system has been reduced by over £100 million in the last year.

Removals are getting faster. 19% of asylum seekers are now removed within 12 months.

We continue to pursue an ongoing programme of innovation and reform to ensure that the asylum system delivers swifter, higher quality case conclusions, delivered at significantly lower cost to the taxpayer.

Further information on the Asylum Improvement Project can be found in its one-year-on progress report published in May 2011. The report can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/asylum-improvement-project/

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how funding criteria are being developed for new applications for the Prevent strategy. [73058]

James Brokenshire: Our priority is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism through the delivery of the objectives in the Prevent strategy. We have developed criteria for the assessment of funding applications based on established and objective project management guidance for the delivery of projects. Key features that the bids are assessed against include details of project deliverables, milestones and value for money. We will use these criteria as a basis to assess each project's ability to deliver Prevent objectives, the likelihood of the project proposal achieving its aims and how it will impact on people who are most vulnerable to radicalisation.

Asylum: English Language

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful applicants for asylum had the ability to speak English to A1 standard in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [73622]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The UK Border Agency does not collect data on how many successful asylum seekers speak English.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what English language training her Department provides to successful applicants for asylum; what the budget for such training was in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what the budget for such training will be in each financial year to 2014-15. [73623]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The Home Office does not provide English language training for refugees or hold a budget for such training.

Refugees are able to apply for ESOL classes subject to meeting certain eligibility criteria.

Deportation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in London on the deportation from the UK of Sri Lankan nationals. [74227]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency, together with representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, maintain a regular dialogue on migration with officials at the high commission of Sri Lanka including on matters relating to the re-documentation and return of Sri Lankan nationals when they have no legal right to remain in the UK.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sri Lankan nationals have been deported from the UK to Sri Lanka in each of the last 10 years. [74230]

Damian Green: The following table provides the available information on total number of Sri Lankan nationals who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK to Sri Lanka by type in each year from 2004 to 2010. Data for earlier years are not available.

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2], by type, nationals of Sri Lanka to Sri Lanka, January 2004 to December 2010

Number of departures

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010[P]*
Removals and voluntary departures, nationals of Sri Lanka to Sri Lanka	523	510	819	611	439	488	590
Of which:							
Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[3, 4]	283	199	421	317	180	191	210

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2], by type, nationals of Sri Lanka to Sri Lanka, January 2004 to December 2010

Number of departures

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[8]
Assisted Voluntary Returns[5]	208	269	303	181	124	130	162
Other voluntary departures[6]	n/a	4	71	77	81	101	155
Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[7]	32	38	24	36	54	66	63

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[2] Destination as recorded on source database.

[3] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by Enforcement Officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[4] Since October 2006, figures include persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.

[5] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by Refugee Action from April 2011 (previously run by the International Organization for Migration). May include some cases leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants Programme and some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.

[6] Since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[7] Figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, removals performed by immigration officers at ports using enforcement powers and since 2005 a small number of cases who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[8] Provisional.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in tables rv.01 to rv.08 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics webpages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1131-2W, on deportation: offenders, for how many foreign national offenders subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements is their location unknown. [72369][1]

Damian Green: There are four foreign national prisoners subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements whom the UK Border Agency is considering for deportation and whose location is unknown.

The UK Border Agency seeks to deport from the UK foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria:

A court recommendation.

For non-EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years, or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (other than possession).

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

There may also be other foreign nationals subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements whose whereabouts is unknown, but are not subject to deportation consideration by the UK Border Agency.

The UK Border Agency's work on relocating individuals subject to deportation consideration is a high priority and it actively pursues individuals whose whereabouts are currently unknown.

DNA: Databases

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the retention of DNA of those arrested but not charged with a qualifying offence as defined in the Crime and Security Act 2010. [71005]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 9 September 2011]*: Our position remains that, where a person is arrested but not charged for a qualifying offence, if the police believe there are sufficient public protection grounds to justify the retention of DNA and fingerprint records, they will be able to apply to the new Commissioner for the Retention and Use of Biometric Material.

The Commissioner will decide whether or not retention is justified; if the Commissioner agrees, the police will be able to retain material for a period of three years. At the end of that period, they will be able to apply to a magistrates court for a single, two-year, extension to the retention period.

Domestic Violence

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for protection under the domestic violence rule of the Immigration Rules have been *(a)* made, *(b)* accepted and *(c)* rejected in the latest period for which figures are available. [73243]

Damian Green: The number of applications for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) under the domestic violence rule that have been made, accepted and refused from 1 January 2007 to 30 September 2011 are as follows:

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Applications made	1,341	1,336	1,324	1,240	958
Granted/ accepted	350	431	462	641	710
Refused	455	487	602	478	150
Other[1]	536	418	260	121	98

[1] Includes rejected, void and withdrawn applications.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

It should be noted that "rejected" is a separate application outcome for applications which have not been completed correctly.

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[1] *[Official Report, 20 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 9MC.]*

Entry Clearances

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Ghanaian nationals were refused entry to the UK in each of the last five years. [74240]

Damian Green: The number of Ghanaian nationals initially refused entry to the United Kingdom was 501 in 2006, 426 in 2007, 450 in 2008, 269 in 2009 and 236 in 2010. 2010 figures are provisional.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons refused entry to the United Kingdom. Data on those refused entry are available in tables be.08 to be.08q from the Library of the House and from the Home Office science, research and statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications from Ghanaian nationals have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in each of the last 10 years. [74243]

Damian Green: The number of asylum applications, excluding dependants, from nationals of Ghana that have been *(a)* granted asylum on initial decisions and *(b)* refused asylum on initial decisions are provided in the following table:

Asylum applications and initial decisions[1,2,3] for main applicants, nationals of Ghana

									Principal applicants
	Total applications	*Total initial decisions*	*Total grants*	*Grants of asylum*	*Grants of HP*	*Grants of DL*	*Grants of ELR*	*Total refusals*	*Total withdrawals*
2001	192	423	93	48	—	—	45	330	22
2002	277	254	24	14	—	—	10	230	23
2003	323	334	16	7	0	8	1	318	45
2004	353	324	10	4	0	6	—	314	83
2005	231	203	15	2	2	11	—	188	138
2006	130	87	3	0	0	3	—	84	94
2007	122	101	4	0	0	4	—	97	27
2008	141	95	1	0	0	1	—	94	35
2009	139	101	7	1	0	6	—	94	44
2010	167	159	6	0	1	5	—	153	43

[1] 2009 and 2010 figures are provisional.

[2] Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Humanitarian Protection (HP) and Discretionary Leave (DL) replaced Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR) from 1 April 2003.

These data were published in Table as.01 of Immigration Statistics: April-June 2011. Further information on asylum application outcomes is available from the Immigration Statistics release available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to Ghanaian nationals in each of the last 10 years. [74244]

Damian Green: The figures are for main student visa applicants only and do not include student visitors.

	Total number of visas issued
2004	2,088
2005	1,097
2006	1,181
2007	981
2008	837
2009	782
2010	832

These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas have been granted to foreign nationals *(a)* under the age of 20 and *(b)* over the age of 30 in each of the last 10 years. [74245]

Damian Green: The following table shows the requested information from 2004 (the earliest date for which figures are available).

	Under 20 years of age	*Over 30 years of age*
2004	48,229	25,390
2005	50,752	24,641
2006	61,424	26,541
2007	63,848	25,053
2008	43,148	22,452
2009	51,962	23,954
2010	46,289	21,702

These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals in respect of refused student visa applications have *(a)* been upheld and *(b)* not been upheld in the last 12 months. [74043]

Damian Green: The points-based system Tier 4 student visa does not carry the right of appeal. Therefore no appeals were heard. Applicants can instead request an administrative review which is conducted by the entry clearance manager at post.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted in each of the last five years. [74044]

Damian Green: The figures are for main student visa applicants only and do not include student visitors.

	Applications[1]	*Issued*[2]
2006	283,724	190,219
2007	284,567	193,775
2008	312,242	207,777
2009	384,934	273,214
2010	322,767	253,767

[1] These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

[2] Published statistic available at:
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Foreign Workers: Nurses

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of recent changes to immigration rules on the supply of nurses through the Overseas Nursing Programme. [72951]

Damian Green: Nurses applying through the Overseas Nursing Programme continue to qualify under Tier 2 of the Points-Based System where there are labour market gaps which cannot be filled by settled workers.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by her Department using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73504]

Damian Green: Details of Government Procurement Card transactions undertaken by the Home Department in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost due to the need to redact manually sensitive information.

We are currently working to provide a consistent method of reporting Government Procurement Card purchase information for individual transactions over £500 in value dating from 1 April 2011. We expect this information to be available on our departmental website before the end of the calendar year.

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by her Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73722]

Damian Green: During the period 2006-07 to 2009-10 no Government Procurement Card transactions were made by Home Department officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines.

Hillsborough Disaster

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Prime Minister since her appointment over the unredacted release of the Hillsborough Cabinet minutes. [74320]

Mrs May: The Prime Minister and I agree on the need to provide full transparency about the Hillsborough disaster through full public disclosure. All the Cabinet Office papers have been shared with the Hillsborough Independent Panel and the Government are happy for all the papers to be released as soon as the panel so decides, in consultation with the families. The Prime Minister and I expect them to be shared with the Hillsborough families first and then the wider public.

Identity and Passport Service: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Identity and Passport Service using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73502]

Damian Green: In response to (i), the total expenditure incurred by the Identity and Passport Service (formerly the UK Passport Agency) in 2007-08 through use of the Government Procurement Card was £1,312,748. In response to (ii) and (iii), I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Salisbury (John Glen) on 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of GPC transactions in these years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding she plans to allocate to tackling illegal immigration at UK borders up to 2015. [70234]

Damian Green: The planned expenditure for the agency is set out in the following table. Detail of planned expenditure below the organisational level is not available as yet for the years 2012-15.

					Budget (£ million)
	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Total	2,414	2,298	2,239	2,184	2,162
Of which:					
Taxpayer funding	1,613	1,469	1,371	1,334	1,309

Note:

The total spend figure is the gross spending of the agency, including spending funded by income earned.

Passport Office: Newark

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the closure of the Newark Passport Office on passport application processing times. [73340]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service does not have an office in Newark. I presume that the hon. Member is referring to the Newport office.

The Newport office is not closing. In May 2011 I announced that the Newport office will be transformed into a customer service centre, and that the processing of postal and online applications will be transferred to other passport processing centres. This will have no impact on processing times.

Restraint Techniques

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the safety of *(a)* nose control and *(b)* other restraint techniques used by private security companies undertaking enforced removals; and what consideration she has given to phasing out the use of such techniques. [73937]

Damian Green: We would prefer that individuals who have no right to remain in the UK left voluntarily. However, where they refuse to do so, it may be necessary to enforce their removal.

Escort officers will only ever use restraint as an absolute last resort when every effort to secure compliance during a removal has failed and where it is necessary to prevent self-harm or to protect others and property.

In order to exercise any use of restraint, officers must be certified by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department a condition of which is that they have undergone training to a high standard of techniques approved by the National Offender Management Service.

The 'nose control' technique was withdrawn in October 2010 and is no longer part of the training syllabus.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters she has received on funding for civil society organisations within her Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if she will make a statement. [73992]

Damian Green: Letters on funding for civil sector organisations may be received in Home Office headquarters centrally; by various individual business units; or by the Home Office's agencies. The information is not therefore readily available or held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the policy of the UK Border Agency is on responding to constituency cases raised by regional list members of the *(a)* Scottish Parliament, *(b)* Welsh Assembly and *(c)* Northern Ireland Assembly. [74259]

Damian Green: My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department takes the view that immigration is a matter reserved for the Westminster Parliament and therefore inquiries from Members of devolved legislatures (MDLs) on individual immigration cases do not receive a substantive reply. MDLs are informed that their constituent should raise their query through their Westminster MP.

However, substantive replies are given to all Ministers of devolved legislatures on individual immigration cases they raise in their ministerial capacity.

Inquiries from MDLs on matters of policy and general inquiries receive full, substantive replies from the UK Border Agency.

UK Border Agency: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the UK Border Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73501]

Damian Green: Details of Government Procurement Card transactions undertaken by the Home Department between 2007-08 and 2009-10 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost due to the need to redact manually sensitive information.

We are currently working to provide a consistent method of reporting government procurement card spend data for transactions over £500 in value dating from 1 April 2011. We expect this information to be available on our departmental website before the end of the calendar year.

UK Border Agency: Illegal Immigrants

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often UK Border Agency officials monitor illegal working in each UK fishing port; and what action was taken as a result of such monitoring. [73342]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency adopts an intelligence-led approach to its operations. Where intelligence is received which suggests illegal working is taking place this is investigated and appropriate action taken.

The UK Border Agency monitors activity in the UK fishing fleet on an ongoing basis through the deployment of the cutter fleet to ports around the UK and the boarding of vessels at sea by crew from the cutters.

SCOTLAND

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72574]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office did not engage any external solicitors or barristers during 2010-11.

JUSTICE

Anti-slavery Day 2011

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to mark Anti-slavery Day 2011. [73003]

Mr Blunt: The Government are fully committed to combating human trafficking by tackling organised crime groups and protecting the victims of this modern day slavery.

While the Ministry of Justice has no plans to mark Anti-slavery Day 2011, the Government as a whole are supporting Anti-slavery Day 2011 by attending a series of events.

Association of British Insurers

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether officials in his Department have invited the Association of British Insurers to assist in the drafting of policy or legislation since May 2010; [74013]

(2) on how many occasions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department have met (i) the Association of British Insurers, (ii) insurance companies and (iii) Keoghs solicitors since May 2010; and on what dates. [74014]

Mr Djanogly: The Association of British Insurers has not been invited to draft policy or legislation since May 2010. Departmental officials and I have met with a range of organisations with an interest in civil litigation costs and funding, including the ABI, so that they can assist in the policy formulation process. Such meetings, which have included organisations representing the full range of opinions on these issues, form an important part of the consultation on, and implementation of, the Jackson reforms.

I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his question on 7 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 185W, which gave details of meetings I and my officials had with insurance companies until that date. Since then I have met with the ABI on 4 July 2011. I also met with Keogh's solicitors on 19 January 2011 as part of a wider roundtable meeting with several stakeholders. I was supported by the relevant officials at these meetings. I have not held meetings with any individual insurance companies additional to that. Departmental officials have met with the ABI on a number of occasions including on 24 May 2011, 9 August 2011, 29 September 2011 and 10 October 2011. My officials attended a meeting on 28 January 2011 with a range of stakeholders, including an insurance company. There was a meeting between the ABI, Keoghs, the NHS Litigation Authority, an insurance company and my officials on 12 May 2011. My officials met with a large insurer on 18 May 2011 and held two further meetings with "after the event" insurance companies on 8 June 2011 and 15 June 2011. Such insurers generally represent claimant interests.

Article 2 Investigations

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* age of the individual concerned, *(b)* circumstances and *(c)* establishment in which the incident took place were for each non-fatal incident in relation to which an Article 2 compliant investigation has been completed; [72967]

(2) how many Article 2 compliant inquiries into non-fatal cases have been completed; and how many are ongoing or awaiting commencement. [72968]

Mr Blunt: Three Article 2 compliant investigations have been completed into non-fatal incidents in prisons. The report into the circumstances surrounding a man known as D can be found on the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's website and the report into the case of AA can be found on the Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody website. The third report into the case of JL is due to be published this month and will also appear on this website.

There are five Article 2 investigations ongoing into non-fatal incidents in prisons and one is due to be commissioned shortly.

Civil Disorder

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many children imprisoned on remand as a result of the public disorder in August 2011 have been subsequently released on bail; [73817]

(2) how many people aged under 18 have been remanded in custody in connection with the public disorder in August 2011; [73821]

(3) how many children imprisoned on remand or under sentence in connection with the public disorder of August 2011 have appealed against their detention. [73820]

Mr Blunt: The number of juveniles (aged 10 to 17) remanded in custody following the recent public disorder was 109 (data as of 12 September).

The Ministry of Justice has published frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

A more detailed release was published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given, and previous criminal history. This can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11.htm

A further publication is planned for the last week of October which will cover wider socio-economic and demographic characteristics, including ethnicity information.

Claims Management Regulation Unit

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints the Claims Management Regulation Unit has received relating to *(a)* Going Legal Ltd and *(b)* Legal Link Introductory Services Ltd; and how each complaint was resolved. [74012]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: A request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act from the hon. Member's office that asks for the above details is currently under consideration. Once a decision is reached he will be informed of the answer and a copy of the letter in response to that FOI request will be placed in the House Libraries.

Community Orders

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the completion rate was for people sentenced to unpaid work in each year since 2006. [73417]

Mr Blunt: The successful completion rate for offenders sentenced to unpaid work in each year since 2006 is shown in the following table:

Table 1

	Percentage
2006-07	72.00
2007-08	68.00
2008-09	71.75
2009-10	74.45
2010-11	75.27

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; [73828]

(2) what the budget is for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* 2013-14. [73829]

Mr Djanogly: The total spent on compensation payments to the blameless victims of violent crime in England, Wales and Scotland from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, to the nearest million, is as follows:

	Compensation (£ million)
2007-08	235
2008-09	266
2009-10	244
2010-11	281

The departmental expenditure limit (DEL) funding allocated to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in respect of the financial year 2010-11 included an additional £70 million to meet demand. The funding allocated in respect of the financial year 2011-12 is £204 million. This level of funding is based upon a re-assessment of the caseload against the operational requirement to manage expected demand in 2011-12. However, as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is demand-led the Ministry of Justice will keep the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority's 2011-12 funding needs under constant review. Funding for the financial years 2012-13 and 2013-14 is yet to be approved and allocated.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74383]

Mr Djanogly: The proportion of payments made within 10 days to all suppliers for the months of July and August 2010 are:

	Percentage
July 2010	93
August 2010	93

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73108]

Mr Blunt: In the current climate our expenditure on consultancy will be minimal and the test for using consultants in public service has to be set very high and with a compelling value for money test.

In limited circumstances where we decide that consultancy support is necessary and essential to meet our departmental aims we will employ the following strategy and associated procedures:

For low value requirements (below £100,000) we will utilise the planned Government Market Place;

For high value requirements (above £100,000) we will utilise the planned Government Procurement Service Consultancy Framework;

Pending the Government Market Place and the Government Procurement Service Consultancy Framework becoming available, we will continue to utilise the available Buying Solutions Frameworks.

Driving Offences

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any drivers with over 12 penalty points on their licences have been allowed to continue driving through an exceptional hardship argument; [73231]

(2) how many drivers with 12 or more penalty points have been allowed to keep their driving licences due to mitigating circumstances in the last 12 months. [74635]

Mr Blunt: Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) on the Court Proceedings Database does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. Information is not held on whether drivers incurring or exceeding 12 penalty points have reduced or avoided a driving disqualification for exceptional hardship or other mitigating circumstances at the court's discretion.

Fines: Surcharges

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the victims' surcharge raised in income in 2010-11; how much he expects it to generate in income in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; and how much of the sum raised he expects to arise from the implementation of the Prisoner Earnings Act 1996. [73767]

Mr Blunt: The Victim Surcharge, which at the moment is only ordered on fines, raised £10.5 million in 2010-11 and we would expect to continue to raise a similar amount in future years.

This figure excludes deductions taken under the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996 from which we estimate that revenue in the first 12 months, beginning in September 2011, will be up to £1 million.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73720]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Financial controls in place on the use of Ministry of Justice Government Procurement cards (GPC) prevent cash being withdrawn by cardholders. However, selected cardholders in the former Tribunals Service were authorised to withdraw cash for the purposes of reimbursing appellants expenses. The process was strictly controlled at the business unit level and monitored by district managers to ensure compliance with the process. This process was replaced in July 2011 so cash withdrawals are no longer made using the GPC.

Data in the format my hon. Friend has requested for individual transactions are not held centrally and would require an approach to the individual business units for this information. An initial assessment indicates that contacting staff members and compiling this data would take in excess of 3.5 days.

Immigration: Judges

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of immigration judges who were previously legal practitioners dealing with immigration cases. [73791]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not collect, or record separately, information about the previous practitioner experience of those who apply for appointment to the Immigration and Asylum Chamber.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of employment law legal aid cases he expects to run on a damages-based agreement or contingency fee arrangement basis after the implementation of the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. [74069]

Mr Djanogly: Following implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, legal aid will no longer be available for employment cases except in relation to a contravention of the Equality Act 2010. We do not hold data on cases which are privately funded by means other than legal aid.

Legal Services Commission

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running costs of the Defence Solicitor Call Centre in the Legal Services Commission were in the latest year in which records are available. [74063]

Mr Djanogly: The running costs of the Defence Solicitor Call Centre are available on the Legal Services Commission's website, in table CDS1 of the 2010-11 annual statistical information publication under 'telephone advice admin costs'. The publication can be found a the following link:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/docs/about_us_main/Statistical_information_pack_2010-2011.pdf

Litter: Convictions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convictions there have been for the offence of depositing litter in each year since 2007; [73222]

(2) how many convictions there have been for throwing litter from motor vehicles in each year since 2001. [73227]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for littering offences in England and Wales from 2007 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. It is therefore not possible to separately identify convictions that resulted from throwing litter from motor vehicles.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for littering offences, England and Wales, 2007 to 2010[1,2]

Offence description	*Statute*	*2007*	*2008*[3]	*2009*	*2010*
Littering	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.87, 93, 94, 94(8)(9) as substituted by Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, s.21	2,304	2,715	3,489	3,573

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Estate Maintenance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maintenance backlog was in his Department's estate in each of the last five years. [73074]

Mr Blunt: The maintenance backlog for the Ministry of Justice estate since it was created in 2007 has been as follows:

	£ billion
2007	1.35
2008	1.38
2009	1.36
2010	1.36

The maintenance backlog figure for 2011 has not yet been calculated.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* his Department were seconded to the prison and probation ombudsman in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) 2010. [72972]

Mr Blunt: As the head of an independent organisation, it is a matter for the prisons and probation ombudsman (PPO) to determine the complement of his own staff. The PPO considers staff secondments to include staff on detachment from NOMS and from the wider MOJ.

Information on staff secondments during 2005 and 2006 is not held by the PPO. The following table gives numbers, as supplied by the PPO, of staff seconded from NOMS for the period 2007-10. During this period, the PPO seconded no members of staff from the wider Ministry of Justice.

As at October 2011 there were no seconded staff employed by the PPO.

Staff seconded by the PPO from NOMS by year:

	Number of staff[1]
2005	[2]—
2006	[2]—
2007	11
2008	9
2009	5
2010	3

[1] Number seconded as at December of that year.

[2] No records.

Office of the Public Guardian

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of relocating the Office of the Public Guardian from London to Manchester. [73781]

Mr Djanogly: As part of the Office of the Public Guardian's (OPGs) Transformation Programme it has been carrying out a phased relocation of work from London to the Midlands.

The relocation project started in 2009 with the opening of an office at 54 Hagley road, Birmingham and continued with the opening of an office at the Pearson Building, Nottingham in 2010.

The final phase of the relocation project will see the OPG reducing its remaining London presence to a limited number of core corporate and operational roles and relocating the remainder of its business to the Axis building in Birmingham. The estimated total of estate relocation and staff exit costs for this final phase is £6.9 million.

The OPG is not relocating any of its functions to Manchester.

Operation Safeguard

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* cells in police stations and *(b)* cells in courts are available for use under Operation Safeguard; [73774]

(2) what the cost per cell per night is of using *(a)* cells in police stations and *(b)* cells in courts for Operation Safeguard. [73775]

Mr Blunt: There is no fixed limit on the number of police or court cells that could be used to hold prisoners, as the number that can be made available at any one time depends on the occupancy levels required to deliver their primary function. If these places are required the number that will be made available will be determined jointly by NOMS and ACPO for police cells, or NOMS and HMCTS for court cells.

The maximum cost per night of a police cell used under operation safeguard is £400, although the actual price charged will normally be less. The pricing structure for police cells is set out in the Safeguard National Framework Agreement.

The pricing of court cell contingencies is determined by commercial contracts with a number of private sector organisations. Because of the confidential nature of these contracts it would not be appropriate to publicly release these costs.

Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the occupancy rate was for each prison and young offenders establishment on *(a)* 1 January 2010, *(b)* 1 March 2010, *(c)* 1 June 2010, *(d)* 1 September 2010, *(e)* 1 December 2010, *(f)* 1 January 2011, *(g)* 1 February 2011, *(h)* 1 March 2011, *(i)* 1 June 2011 and *(j)* 1 October 2011. [73760]

Mr Blunt: This information is not available in the format requested. The occupancy rate of each establishment in the NOMS custodial estate, as defined by the percentage of population, to in-use certified normal accommodation is published for the last working Friday in December 2009, February 2010, May 2010, August 2010, November 2010, December 2010, January 2011, February 2011, March 2011 and September 2011 and is set out in the following table. This information is published monthly on the MOJ website via the attached link.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/prison-population-figures/index.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

										Percentage
Establishment	*Fri 18 Dec 2009*	*Fri 26 Feb 2010*	*Fri 28 May 2010*	*Fri 27 Aug 2010*	*Fri 26 Nov 2010*	*Fri 31 Dec 2010*	*Fri 28 Jan 2011*	*Fri 25 Feb 2011*	*Fri 27 May 2011*	*Fri 30 Sept 2011*
Acklington/Castington	92	92	83	82	82	81	80	81	91	98
Altcourse	162	161	159	153	158	145	148	147	143	149
Ashfield	61	58	56	75	83	73	77	82	88	89
Ashwell	111	109	115	115	115	115	86	—	—	—
Askham Grange	99	93	90	97	98	91	102	102	100	98
Aylesbury	99	99	103	102	99	97	101	98	99	100
Bedford	155	153	152	148	148	137	147	146	144	157
Belmarsh	109	110	108	108	104	97	104	108	108	114
Birmingham	128	133	134	134	131	131	133	133	136	134
Blantyre House	99	100	99	98	100	100	98	96	99	99
Blundeston	108	108	108	108	111	111	106	109	111	108
Brinsford	95	80	99	97	96	90	92	95	101	106
Bristol	142	143	139	140	141	136	143	140	146	150
Brixton	123	125	125	115	137	131	138	139	132	146
Bronzefield	98	89	96	91	93	85	94	95	93	100
Buckley Hall	109	110	109	110	110	108	109	110	106	108
Bullingdon	125	127	127	123	123	119	125	125	123	125
Bullwood Hall	101	101	100	101	102	104	101	104	96	106
Bure	98	98	94	103	103	103	102	103	104	103
Canterbury	159	159	154	158	159	148	156	157	157	156
Cardiff	150	149	146	148	151	148	147	148	145	152
Channings Wood	104	103	104	104	102	101	101	103	103	104
Chelmsford	121	117	122	121	123	123	122	124	121	130
Coldingley	103	103	103	104	103	103	102	104	102	103
Cookham Wood	92	76	92	94	85	73	68	65	80	89
Dartmoor	103	104	103	89	101	100	101	102	102	100
Deerbolt	96	97	95	97	97	92	93	93	91	96
Doncaster	147	147	155	155	152	149	155	156	153	155
Dorchester	175	169	158	149	168	145	158	160	151	154
Dovegate	100	103	107	107	110	109	107	105	104	106
Downview	95	94	95	95	96	93	94	97	96	96
Drake Hall	96	83	95	95	96	86	88	97	98	99
Durham	159	159	152	154	154	147	151	158	154	157
East Sutton Park	86	87	89	86	100	88	91	93	99	98
Eastwood Park	79	93	97	96	99	86	98	99	95	100
Erlestoke	99	99	99	79	99	97	99	98	99	96
Everthorpe	113	113	112	113	110	109	108	112	112	112
Exeter	166	163	161	163	169	157	164	170	160	162
Featherstone	101	101	102	101	101	102	101	101	101	102
Feltham	86	88	89	88	91	83	87	91	90	95
Ford	94	94	92	96	99	94	86	76	95	98
Forest Bank	132	127	128	124	129	123	125	128	125	126
Foston Hall	77	83	86	82	87	80	85	99	99	102
Frankland	92	94	95	96	97	98	96	97	96	96
Full Sutton	100	100	99	98	100	100	100	100	102	101
Garth	103	104	104	103	101	101	103	104	103	103
Gartree	99	99	99	99	100	100	99	97	100	100
Glen Parva	118	113	116	119	110	108	105	115	116	117
Gloucester	132	134	137	128	138	121	132	128	128	149
Grendon / Spring Hill	95	93	96	91	91	91	93	94	96	96
Guys Marsh	110	110	110	112	111	108	111	111	111	110
Hatfield	96	98	98	98	98	97	97	97	97	96
Haverigg	101	84	102	100	100	100	99	101	102	102
Hewell	118	117	115	116	120	110	115	119	120	124
High Down	112	109	109	104	108	103	101	106	105	110
Highpoint (North and South)	100	101	101	101	101	99	100	101	101	101
Hindley	69	75	74	74	65	65	65	71	76	81
Hollesley Bay	99	94	99	98	98	97	100	97	98	100
Holloway	86	88	86	89	85	85	82	93	99	105
Holme House	109	110	106	101	96	91	94	94	101	115
Hull	138	128	136	134	139	131	131	131	129	138
Huntercombe	59	50	38	0	74	72	81	92	98	98

Percentage

Establishment	*Fri 18 Dec 2009*	*Fri 26 Feb 2010*	*Fri 28 May 2010*	*Fri 27 Aug 2010*	*Fri 26 Nov 2010*	*Fri 31 Dec 2010*	*Fri 28 Jan 2011*	*Fri 25 Feb 2011*	*Fri 27 May 2011*	*Fri 30 Sept 2011*
Isis				73	82	79	68	65	85	113
Isle of Wight	107	107	101	107	107	106	108	108	107	107
Kennet	194	191	195	193	194	190	193	192	189	194
Kingston	99	99	98	99	99	99	100	98	100	98
Kirkham	100	100	100	99	100	99	98	99	99	98
Kirklevington Grange	97	97	95	98	95	94	92	96	98	100
Lancaster	152	150	151	145	148	147	124	48		
Lancaster Farms	101	106	103	103	105	94	105	108	108	102
Latchmere House	93	95	96	96	100	93	98	97	96	
Leeds	139	138	137	138	139	134	143	136	128	139
Leicester	174	169	163	160	164	157	163	163	159	175
Lewes	108	90	97	97	95	92	95	96	95	103
Leyhill	94	95	98	97	97	94	96	98	97	98
Lincoln	155	147	146	141	138	128	131	143	141	158
Lindholme	105	103	104	105	104	101	104	104	107	107
Littlehey	108	103	95	94	101	102	101	103	102	108
Liverpool	111	110	112	110	109	99	101	108	104	108
Long Lartin	99	98	99	100	99	99	99	99	99	99
Low Newton	96	97	101	80	97	91	88	104	87	93
Lowdham Grange	107	107	93	104	106	104	103	103	104	102
Maidstone	105	106	105	106	106	105	104	105	105	104
Manchester	130	131	124	128	130	123	125	127	125	125
Moorland	103	105	105	102	68	92	94	99	106	88
Morton Hall	96	83	74	79	75	69	44	11		
Mount	103	102	101	102	102	103	102	102	101	102
New Hall	91	88	98	96	95	91	90	102	105	98
North Sea Camp	92	99	98	97	96	98	98	97	98	98
Northallerton	169	153	166	119	138	121	122	116	132	159
Norwich	116	118	120	120	119	113	119	120	121	124
Nottingham	145	146	120	145	145	133	141	145	140	146
Onley	98	86	99	98	99	95	97	99	99	99
Parc	139	138	141	136	127	128	123	119	126	124
Pentonville	134	130	134	134	135	127	134	137	131	142
Peterborough (Male and Female)	113	112	116	114	113	103	107	118	110	115
Portland	101	102	102	102	102	92	85	88	99	107
Preston	169	171	168	171	167	166	168	173	162	165
Ranby	111	112	111	108	122	120	120	122	121	122
Reading	143	130	130	126	124	114	120	116	125	124
Risley	103	103	102	103	104	103	102	104	102	103
Rochester	100	98	99	95	100	95	98	98	84	97
Rye Hill	109	109	107	102	101	102	101	102	103	103
Send	96	98	95	97	100	96	98	98	98	99
Sheppey	111	109	105	109	110	109	109	109	108	111
Shepton Mallet	113	114	114	115	113	113	114	114	114	114
Shrewsbury	158	168	166	169	177	171	179	179	182	185
Stafford	99	99	98	98	101	102	101	101	101	101
Stocken	104	103	108	107	108	106	106	107	107	103
Stoke Heath	96	92	103	105	85	80	76	77	55	72
Styal	98	101	98	90	94	90	96	99	101	97
Sudbury	99	98	100	98	99	97	98	99	98	99
Swansea	169	173	164	175	175	171	173	175	178	182
Swinfen Hall	103	106	103	99	106	107	104	106	102	107
Thorn Cross	87	85	82	92	91	86	89	89	91	93
Usk/Prescoed	134	130	133	134	125	130	127	133	132	132
Verne	103	103	102	103	99	105	102	103	102	104
Wakefield	99	98	99	99	98	99	99	99	99	99
Wandsworth	150	149	148	144	148	142	148	149	150	153
Warren Hill	81	66	59	78	96	91	95	96	94	88
Wayland	96	104	105	105	104	104	104	105	105	105
Wealstun	103	101	98	95	95	99	100	101	101	100

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Wellingborough	100	98	85	88	99	98	98	100	100	100
Warrington	85	76	79	73	71	64	71	91	95	89
Wetherby	76	65	79	96	96	81	85	90	86	93
Whatton	111	111	109	110	106	108	107	108	108	108
Whitemoor	96	95	100	99	99	99	97	97	99	98
Winchester	140	137	140	138	135	129	132	135	139	137
Wolds	123	121	122	120	119	119	120	114	113	110
Woodhill	122	121	120	123	121	117	122	124	121	126
Wormwood Scrubs	110	113	108	108	106	102	108	109	103	110
Wymott	105	102	104	104	104	104	105	104	104	104

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much prison capacity in each prison has been *(a)* brought into use and *(b)* taken out of use in each of the last 12 months. [73776]

Mr Blunt: The number of additional prison places that have been *(a)* brought in to use and *(b)* taken out of use in each prison and young offender institution in the NOMS estate as at the last working Friday in each of the last 12 months is set out in the following tables.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

	Brought into use											
Establishment	*Fri 29 Oct 2010*	*Fri 26 Nov 2010*	*Fri 31 Dec 2010*	*Fri 28 Jan 2011*	*Fri 25 Feb 2011*	*Fri 25 Mar 2011*	*Fri 15 Apr 2011*	*Fri 27 May 2011*	*Fri 24 June 2011*	*Fri 29 July 2011*	*Fri 26 Aug 2011*	*Fri 30 Sept 2011*
Acklington/ Castington	60	107	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Altcourse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	
Ashwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aylesbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belmarsh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	
Birmingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blundeston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brinsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	24
Brixton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	10	30	20	—	—	—	—
Bullingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canterbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Channings Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chelmsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
Coldingley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dartmoor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Deerbolt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dovegate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downview	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erlestoke	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	124

	Brought into use											
Establishment	*Fri 29 Oct 2010*	*Fri 26 Nov 2010*	*Fri 31 Dec 2010*	*Fri 28 Jan 2011*	*Fri 25 Feb 2011*	*Fri 25 Mar 2011*	*Fri 15 Apr 2011*	*Fri 27 May 2011*	*Fri 24 June 2011*	*Fri 29 July 2011*	*Fri 26 Aug 2011*	*Fri 30 Sept 2011*
Everthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exeter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Featherstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—
Feltham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ford	—	—	—	—	24	52	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	—	—	24	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frankland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Full Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Garth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gartree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glen Parva	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grendon/Spring Hill	—	—	4	—	—							
Guys Marsh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hatfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haverigg	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Down	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highpoint (North and South)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hindley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holloway	35	—	—	2	—	58	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holme House	1	112	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Huntercombe	50	100	125	97	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Isis	—	72	72	36	120	95	75	44	—	—	—	—
Isle of Wight	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kennet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirkham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirklevington Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Farms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
Leicester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Lewes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	107
Leyhill	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Lincoln	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	1
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	12	—	—	—
Long Lartin	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	24		—	—
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maidstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—
Moorland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	75	70
Morton Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mount	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hall	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	—	—	—	—	—	32	24	4	—	—	—	—
Northallerton	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norwich	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	—	97	23	94	118	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Pentonville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	—	—	—	—

Brought into use

Establishment	*Fri 29 Oct 2010*	*Fri 26 Nov 2010*	*Fri 31 Dec 2010*	*Fri 28 Jan 2011*	*Fri 25 Feb 2011*	*Fri 25 Mar 2011*	*Fri 15 Apr 2011*	*Fri 27 May 2011*	*Fri 24 June 2011*	*Fri 29 July 2011*	*Fri 26 Aug 2011*	*Fri 30 Sept 2011*
Peterborough (Male and Female)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—
Preston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Ranby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reading	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Risley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochester	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Rye Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Send	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheppey	57	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shrewsbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stafford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stocken	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60
Stoke Heath	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Styal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sudbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swansea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	10
Swinfen Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Usk/Prescoed	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	10
Verne	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wayland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wealstun	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	—	—	—	—	—	36	30	—	—	—	—	—
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wetherby	12	20	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	12	—
Whatton	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitemoor	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—
Wolds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Woodhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Wormwood Scrubs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wymott	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Taken out of use

Establishment	*Fri 29 Oct 2010*	*Fri 26 Nov 2010*	*Fri 31 Dec 2010*	*Fri 28 Jan 2011*	*Fri 25 Feb 2011*	*Fri 25 Mar 2011*	*Fri 15 Apr 2011*	*Fri 27 May 2011*	*Fri 24 June 2011*	*Fri 29 July 2011*	*Fri 26 Aug 2011*	*Fri 30 Sept 2011*
Acklington/ Castington	—	—	—	—	—	56	—	—	—	—	—	—
Altcourse	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	70	—	—	—	—
Ashfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashwell	—	—	—	—	—	214	—	—	—	—	—	—
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aylesbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belmarsh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birmingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blundeston	54	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brinsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—
Brixton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bullingdon	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Taken out of use											
Establishment	*Fri 29 Oct 2010*	*Fri 26 Nov 2010*	*Fri 31 Dec 2010*	*Fri 28 Jan 2011*	*Fri 25 Feb 2011*	*Fri 25 Mar 2011*	*Fri 15 Apr 2011*	*Fri 27 May 2011*	*Fri 24 June 2011*	*Fri 29 July 2011*	*Fri 26 Aug 2011*	*Fri 30 Sept 2011*
Bure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canterbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—
Channings Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chelmsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coldingley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dartmoor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deerbolt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dovegate	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downview	20	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erlestoke	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Everthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exeter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Featherstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ford	—	—	—	112	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	—	30	30	—	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frankland	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Full Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Garth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Gartree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glen Parva	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grendon/Spring Hill	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Guys Marsh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Hatfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haverigg	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	170
High Down	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highpoint (North and South)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hindley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holloway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holme House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Huntercombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Isis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Isle of Wight	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kennet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirkham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirklevington Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster	—	—	—	—	—	233	10	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Farms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	207
Leeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Leicester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Lewes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leyhill	4	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincoln	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	—	—	60	—

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Liverpool	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Lartin	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Low Newton	—	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lowdham Grange	—	—	20	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Maidstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manchester	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	12	—	—	—
Moorland	—	—	340	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	—	—	—	—	—	392	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mount	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northallerton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norwich	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pentonville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peterborough (Male and Female)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ranby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reading	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Risley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochester	60	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hill	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Send	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheppey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shrewsbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stafford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stocken	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoke Heath	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sty[illegible]	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sudbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swansea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swinfen Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Usk/Prescoed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verne	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warren Hill	—	94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wayland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wealstun	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wetherby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	14
Whatton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitemoor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winchester	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wolds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	—
Woodhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wormwood Scrubs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30	—
Wymott	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prisoners: Work Experience

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which private sector companies are involved in providing work opportunities for prisoners in each prison. [73768]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not centrally collect information on all private sector companies involved in providing work opportunities for prisoners as arrangements and partnerships can be established locally or nationally. There are many examples of successful partnerships in this area—for example employers recruiting offenders directly from prison, running a prison workshop, providing work placements, providing work for prisoners in prisons or helping shape policy and practice.

A list of contract services customers[1], many of whom are private sector, is available on the Justice website via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmps/prison-industries.htm[2]

A number of other organisations from the private sector work in partnership with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to provide prison workshops offering training to prisoners and the chance of employment on release. These include:

Organisation	*Number of establishment(s) they are operating in*
Cisco Systems	32
DHL/Booker	19
National Grid	[3]22
Timpson's	4

There are many examples of successful partnerships across NOMS; whether employers are recruiting offenders directly from prison, running a prison workshop, providing work placements or helping shape policy and practice.

[1] Where organisations use prison facilities and prisoner labour to carry out services or manufacture/assemble goods under contract.

[2] Refer to the document at the bottom of the web page.

[3] Across England and extending into Scotland and includes adult and female offenders.

Prisoners: Working Hours

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the resources required to support the policy of prisoners working a 40-hour week. [73780]

Mr Blunt: We are continuing to develop a framework that will enable us to roll out our approach to working prisons and longer working weeks more widely across the prison estate.

We want to see many more prisoners working, so that more work is delivered at no cost to the taxpayer and can contribute to victims' services.

We will work to achieve this in a way which is economically viable and self-sustaining, including engaging with the private sector on how together we can expand prison work in a cost-effective way.

Prisons: Private Sector

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prisons operated by the private sector are covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [73822]

Mr Blunt: Prisons operated by the private sector do not fall within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Information held by the Ministry of Justice relating to private sector prisons can be requested from the Department under the FOIA.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people proceeded against under Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 where a crime was recorded were *(a)* subsequently not proceeded with, *(b)* found guilty and *(c)* found not guilty in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [73437]

(2) how many people proceeded against under Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 where a crime was recorded were *(a)* acquitted, *(b)* given a custodial sentence, *(c)* given a community sentence, *(d)* given a fine and *(e)* given a conditional or absolute discharge in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [73438]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, for offences under Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in England and Wales for the financial year 2009-10 and calendar year 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Police recorded crime statistics come within the remit of The Home Office. Offences recorded under Section 2 of the Protection of Harassment Act 1997 are included within their offence classification of 'Harassment' and cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification. It is therefore not possible to identify those Section 2 offences which are recorded and subsequently not proceeded with.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, for offences under Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997[1], England and Wales, 2009-10 and 2010[2, 3]

Statute	*2009-10*	*2010*
Section 2 Protection from Harassment Act 1997		
Proceeded against	5,609	6,108
Acquitted[4]	257	270
Found guilty	4,458	4,740
Sentenced[5]	4,481	4,769
Of which:		
Absolute discharge	11	11
Conditional discharge	682	735
Fine	511	569
Community sentence	1,947	2,118
Immediate custody	544	547

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, for offences under Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997[1], England and Wales, 2009-10 and 2010[2,3]

Statute	*2009-10*	*2010*
Other sentences[6]	786	789

[1] Includes the following corresponding offences:
Offence of harassment
Racially aggravated offence of harassment
Religiously aggravated offence of harassment
Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Acquitted includes: Discharged and Dismissed at magistrates courts and Acquitted at the Crown Court.

[5] The found guilty and sentenced columns may be lower than those proceeded against as, excluding those acquitted, it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year or found guilty of a different offence than that proceeded against.

[6] Other sentences includes: suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Repossession Orders

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many repossessions there have been in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England since 2008. [73681]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the numbers of claims leading to orders being made for the repossession of property by mortgage lenders and landlords in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England in each year since 2008. The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the total numbers of repossessions of property (including where keys are handed back voluntarily).

These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made. This is more accurate than the number of orders, removing the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. It is also a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order, such as where borrowers hand the keys back to the lender. Also, not all possession orders result in repossession. Many orders are suspended and if the borrower complies with the repayment arrangements set out in the suspended order the property will not be repossessed.

Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2,3] possession claims leading to orders made[4,5,6] for properties in Ashfield constituency[7,8], Nottinghamshire[7] and England, 2008-10

	Mortgage possession			*Landlord possession*		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Ashfield constituency	290	175	140	140	140	115
Nottinghamshire	1,720	985	890	870	865	1,000
England	103,780	67,315	53,045	95,255	87,885	86,310

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.

[2] Includes all types of landlord whether social or private.

[3] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.

[4] The number of claims that lead to an order includes all claims in which the first order, whether outright or suspended, is made during the period.

[5] The court, following a judicial decision, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[6] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[7] All figures are rounded to the nearest five.

[8] Data up until the first quarter of 2010 (January to March) will reflect Ashfield constituency boundaries as fixed at the 2005 general election and for the rest of 2010 the re-fixed boundaries as of May 2010.

Source:
Ministry of Justice.

Stalking

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to introduce treatment for stalkers in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* as part of a community sentence. [72995]

Mr Blunt: NOMS has developed and delivers a range of accredited offending behaviour programmes, designed to address a diverse range of criminogenic needs. Prisons and probation trusts provide accredited offending behaviour programmes and other interventions to address the risks and/or needs of offenders. The risks and needs of offenders convicted of stalking and harassment is assessed, and offenders are given access to available accredited and non-accredited interventions that best meet their needs.

Translation Services

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what changes he proposes to the National Agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language service professionals in investigations and proceedings within the criminal justice system; [73782]

(2) what representations he has received from organisations and individuals involved in translation and interpretation on the decision to enter into a Commercial Framework Agreement for the provision of language services in the criminal justice system; [73783]

(3) which organisations were shortlisted for the Commercial Framework Agreement to deliver language services in the criminal justice system; and what the monetary value was of their respective tenders. [73784]

Mr Blunt: As I announced in a written ministerial statement I made to the House on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 86-87WS, we are reforming the delivery of interpretation and translation services across the justice sector. This will primarily affect England and Wales. A Languages Services Framework Agreement with a single supplier was signed by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on 24 August 2011. As a result, parts of the National Agreement will be dis-applied to organisations inside the MoJ framework.

The Ministry has received representations from a wide variety of individual interpreters, translators and their representative organisations throughout our consideration of this issue. We held a series of four roadshows, in autumn 2009, in London, Cardiff, Manchester and Newcastle, which sought attendees' views on the strengths and weaknesses of the current arrangements and how to bring about improvements. A general email address has been available since February 2010 to allow interested parties to submit views direct to the project team and ask questions.

In August 2010 various interested parties were notified of the Government's intention to embark upon a procurement process and there were meetings with some of those interested parties, including interpreters' and translators' representative bodies. The Ministry sought views on our specific proposals as they had emerged from the competitive dialogue process, which was undertaken between 30 March 2011 and 4 May 2011. We continue to receive, consider and respond to correspondence from interested parties and groups.

The procurement exercise for the Language Services Framework Agreement was undertaken via a competitive dialogue process. There were several stages to this process:

(A) A Pre-qualification Questionnaire;

(B) Invitation to submit an Outline Solution;

(C) Invitation to submit a Detailed Solution;

(D) Invitation to submit a Final Tender.

126 suppliers were invited to submit a pre-qualification questionnaire. 77 accepted the invitation and 58 fully completed one. Their responses were evaluated.

12 suppliers were invited to participate in the competitive dialogue itself, because they met the pre-qualification criteria. These were:

Applied Language Solutions
"Thebigword"
Language Line Services
K International
Computacentre
Merrill Legal
Cintra Ltd
Eclipse
Language Services Associates
Wessex Translations Ltd
Royal National Institute for Deaf People
SDL Plc.

During the competitive dialogue process only one supplier met the acceptable non-price criteria following the Invitation to Submit Detailed Solution stage of the process. Therefore, only one supplier was able to go on to be evaluated against the price criteria. That supplier was awarded the Framework Agreement.

The current value of interpretation and translation in the justice sector is between £58-65 million per year.

Victims' Advisory Panel

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much he expects to save through the abolition of the Victims' Advisory Panel. [73677]

Mr Blunt: Abolishing the Victims' Advisory Panel will not result in administrative savings. This is because the Panel has not been active since 2009 and no budget has been allocated for it.

In the last three years in which the Victims' Advisory Panel was active the Government spent the following amounts:

£19,116 in 2007-08
£46,940 in 2008-09
£7,101 in 2009-10

Youth Justice Board

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish a revised impact assessment in relation to the proposed abolition of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, including the estimated costs of abolition and updated estimates of the savings from abolition; and if he will make a statement. [73732]

Mr Blunt: We will publish a revised impact assessment alongside the Government's response to the consultation on reforming the public bodies of the Ministry of Justice.

The revised impact assessment will include estimated savings from, and the costs of, the proposed abolition of the Youth Justice Board.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether he expects future funding settlements for Welsh language television services to be a matter for agreement between the BBC and S4C; [73035]

(2) whether he intends to issue directions to the BBC Trust on the level of support to be provided for S4C beyond 2015. [73036]

Mr Vaizey: The S4C-BBC partnership arrangements will ensure a strong, sustainable future for S4C and Welsh language broadcasting. S4C, the BBC and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are currently in discussion about the details of how the partnership arrangements will work. The Government are committed to consulting interested parties on the governance arrangements before they are implemented.

Broadband

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the European Commission on state aid issues in relation to the provision of an urban fibre-to-the-home superfast broadband network. [73478]

Mr Vaizey: Ministers have had no discussions with the European Commission about this issue. Broadband Delivery UK officials have regular discussions with the Commission about state aid issues related to broadband deployment.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the roll-out of an urban fibre-to-the-home superfast broadband network. [73480]

Mr Vaizey: The market will drive the provision of superfast broadband to 66% of the UK, which, given the commercial realities, is likely to include most of the urban areas. To what extent fibre-to-the-home is part of this roll-out is dependent on technical and commercial decisions. Other technologies, including fibre-to-the-cabinet and cable technology are capable of delivering superfast broadband.

Business: Finance

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had with executives from the National Lottery Distribution Fund on measures to assist small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England and Wales. [74173]

John Penrose: I am responding as I have responsibility for the national lottery. The National Lottery Distribution Fund is merely the fund in which the lottery good causes income is held on behalf of the 13 lottery distributing bodies which, acting independently of the Government, make the decisions on grants. Neither I, nor my colleagues, have had meetings with lottery distributing bodies in relation to assistance for business, since they are required to work at arm's length from the Government. While the economy of the UK derives great benefit from the national lottery, the proceeds of the lottery are intended to support the arts, heritage, sport, charities and community and voluntary groups. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport lottery grants database, which is searchable at

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the lottery distributing bodies, shows that since May 2010 the Liverpool Walton constituency has received over £1.6 million in lottery funding.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74367]

John Penrose: The proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in July and August 2010 is set out in the following table:

Month	*Invoices paid within 10 days*	*Total number of invoices paid*
July 2010	415	433
August 2010	348	366

Departmental Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73098]

John Penrose: Resourcing within the Department is done through our internal governance committees. Any request which has an impact on the size, cost or grade structure of our work force requires the submission of a business case before approval can be made.

Only where the required specialist skills and expertise cannot be found within the organisation, or through advertising across the wider civil service, would engagement with external consultants become a possibility. Any business case would need to demonstrate clear value for money and have Corporate Committee approval; responsibility for decisions on recruiting people into interim and temporary positions has been delegated to the Corporate Committee by the Ministerial Board.

Depending on the value, length of the contract and the type of consultant engaged, further scrutiny by the Chief Procurement Officer in the Efficiency and Reform Group and the Minister for the Cabinet Office may be required to ensure the Department maximises the benefits and value of any contract.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73672][1]

John Penrose: Since October 2010, the Department has spent a total of £890.36 on events hosted by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, my hon. Friend the Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson).

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73841]

John Penrose: The Department does not use pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements of under £100,000.00. Pre-qualification questionnaires are only used when carrying out procurement under the EU directives.

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[1] *[Official Report, 2 November 2011, Vol. 534, c. 1MC.]*

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73119]

John Penrose: The Department has not purchased any new furnishings in the last 12 months.

Football

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to the report from the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on football governance, HC 792. [74052]

Hugh Robertson: The Government's response to the report from the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on football governance was published on 12 October 2011, and can be found on our website at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8493.aspx

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73728]

John Penrose: The information you have requested can be found in the following table:

Date	*Transaction cost (£)*
2007	
23 April	3.00
20 April	3.00
27 April	3.00
21 June	3.00
19 September	3.00
24 September	3.00
3 October	5.70
2008	
2 August	3.00
10 October	3.70
2009	
7 June	10.67

Hillsborough Stadium

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister since his appointment on the unredacted release of the Hillsborough Cabinet minutes. [74298]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Prime Minister on a wide range of issues. As agreed with the independent Hillsborough panel, the unredacted Cabinet minutes relating to the Hillsborough disaster will be released to the panel as part of the inquiry. The independent Hillsborough panel will then be free to publish the minutes and any other material they chose once they have completed their inquiry.

Mobile Phones

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which body will determine how the mobile coverage improvement fund will be disbursed. [73644]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will manage the funds allocated for the improvement of mobile coverage.

Mobile Phones: Scotland

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that 99 per cent. of the land mass of Scotland has adequate mobile voice coverage. [73643]

Mr Vaizey: The Government recognise the concerns of those who have no mobile phone coverage or have very poor service. It is for that reason that on 3 October the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced plans to invest £150 million in improving mobile phone reception in areas of the UK, including Scotland, where homes and businesses have poor or non-existent coverage. Detailed planning is now underway to make this investment and we expect the necessary procurement to begin next year, with improved services beginning to come into existence in 2013.

Ofcom

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between Ofcom and Equiniti for the administration of the Programme Making and Special Events funding scheme. [73469]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), is unable to supply or publish the requested document. This is a contract between Ofcom and Equiniti, which is commercially sensitive and confidential and therefore a decision for Ofcom and Equiniti if they wish to publish it.

I understand that Ofcom is considering publishing the invitation to tender that details the broad terms under which contractors were invited to bid.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on physical infrastructure access pricing. [73482]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has regular discussions with Ofcom on a wide range of subjects related to telecommunications, including physical infrastructure access pricing.

Olympic Games 2012

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* total monetary value and *(b)* number of London 2012 Olympics (i) Tier 1 and (ii) Tier 2 contracts have been awarded to companies in each nation and region of the UK. [73486]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 games. Over 1,500 businesses have supplied the ODA from across the devolved nations and the English regions.

Q. (a) and (b)(i)

The spend to date by the ODA, by nation and English region (based on their registered address on the supplier invoice) and the number of Tier 1 contracts awarded can be found in the following table.

Nations and English regions	*Total contract value (£)*	*Number of contracts*
Scotland	25,379,653	25
Wales	417,415	10
Northern Ireland	18,043,690	5
London	3,454,882,430	775
South East	1,014,877,482	233
East of England	847,169,710	139
West Midlands	452,767,861	60
East Midlands	338,994,699	44
North West	107,584,488	54
Yorkshire and the Humber	74,393,422	43
North East	12,125,947	22
South West	12,770,889	67
Outside the UK	38,086,871	41
Total	6,397,494,558	1518

Q. (b)(ii)

These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier 1 contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers 2, 3 and so on, which are awarded by the tier 1 contractors and not by the ODA. For example: Bodycote Testing, Glasgow, provided design services for the Aquatics; CentreNoral Architects, Glasgow, provided architectural services for Primary Substation; and Weldex, Inverness, provided plant hire services for the Olympic Stadium.

Information on the full distribution and value of contracts won across the UK is not held as these are not public procurements run by the ODA. In 2009 the ODA undertook research into its supply chain and mapped out over 1,500 companies from across the UK that are helping to build the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The map can be viewed at the following link:

www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/map.php

This represents only a fraction of the number of companies the ODA expects to benefit from the £6 billion of investment. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains with a value that runs into hundreds of millions of pounds.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is a private company, as such we do not record details of contracts awarded by LOCOG.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to raise awareness of the Inspire programme. [73801]

Hugh Robertson: The Inspire programme has been very successful across the UK over the last four years, with projects in sport, culture, education, sustainability, volunteering and business opportunities and skills. The programme has also been promoted online at london2012.com, at community events, through the Nations and Regions group and as part of ministerial visits across the UK. Already, over 1,700 Inspire projects have signed up, and 10 million people have participated.

The Government are encouraging local initiatives so that they can sustain their Inspire projects as part of the legacy from the games.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport who is responsible for approving sponsorship arrangements for the stadium wrap for the London 2012 Olympics. [73858]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a private company operating independently of the Government and responsible for staging the games. In August 2011, after a competitive procurement process, LOCOG appointed Dow Chemical as the supplier of the stadium wrap. As with all LOCOG's contracts, the wrap must comply with LOCOG's sustainable sourcing code and be consistent with high standards of environmental responsibility. Dow Chemical is a Worldwide International Olympic Committee (IOC) Olympic Partner and therefore, one of 11 "TOP" partners for the London 2012 games.

Olympic Games 2012: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the London 2012 Olympics on Kent. [73471]

Hugh Robertson: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 games.

Kent stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how the South East, and specifically Kent, will benefit from the games are given below.

Over 19,800 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's London 2012 education programme, Get Set; 3,020 schools and colleges are registered in the South East. In Kent 620 schools and colleges have registered for Get Set, including Sevenoaks Primary School and Sevenoaks Preparatory School.

Over 1,700 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire mark. In the South East 156 projects have been awarded Inspire marks.

In addition, 233 contracts have been awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to suppliers in the South East. Kent fencing company Chestnut Products Ltd was contracted to install the perimeter fencing to the main Olympic Park and also to supply and install the perimeter fencing for Broxbourne's White Water Canoe Centre. Chestnut Products Ltd also works directly as a contractor on a supply and install basis for general fencing around the park.

So far 24,924 companies in the region have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised), and 382 contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers. Not all the information on "supply chain" level contracts is in the public domain. There may be other companies that have secured "supply chain" contracts in the region.

I have also announced the 'Places People Play' programme, which will bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring people to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy. Further detail can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7565.aspx

In addition, the "Kent School Games" was part of the national pilot of the School Games programme that has been rolled out nationwide from September this year.

Locations across the UK, particularly those that are hosting international teams in pre-games training camps (PGTCs), have additional opportunities to realise the economic benefits of the games. 28 agreements have been signed with teams to hold PGTCs in the South East including the National Olympic Committee of Nepal, which will be using facilities in Kent.

Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many officials in his Department worked on the draft national planning policy framework produced by the Practitioners' Advisory Group; [73237]

(2) how many officials in his Department worked on the production of the draft national planning policy framework published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. [73238]

John Penrose: I refer the hon. Member for Birmingham Erdington to the answer given by the Minister for Decentralisation and Cities, Department for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 16W.

Radio: Motor Vehicles

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of new cars which are equipped with DAB radio. [73762]

Mr Vaizey: Based on the most recent industry data, 17.8% of new cars registered were fitted with DAB radio as standard in the third quarter of 2011. This is up from 5% in the third quarter of 2010. Vehicle manufacturers have committed to include DAB radio as standard in all new models by 2013.

Tourism

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* EU citizens visiting the UK and *(b)* UK residents visiting other EU countries in each of the last five years. [73448]

John Penrose: The numbers of EU citizens visiting the UK and the number of UK residents visiting other EU countries over the past five years can be found in the Office for National Statistics International Passenger Survey, in the following table.

Thousand

	Number of visits from EU to UK	*Number of visits from UK to EU*
2006	21,287	51,314
2007	21,824	51,186
2008	21,627	50,081
2009	20,331	42,396
2010	20,266	38,925

HEALTH

Cancer: Health Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the Government plan to ensure that local authorities prioritise the awareness and early diagnosis of cancer when developing joint strategic needs assessments. [74121]

Paul Burstow: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, clinical commissioning groups and local authorities will be required to perform joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs) and develop joint health and well-being strategies through local health and well-being boards.

The Government are developing statutory guidance and wider resources to support health and well-being boards in undertaking JSNAs and joint health and well-being strategies.

The Government are still considering what role local authorities will play in the early diagnosis of cancer.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department holds on the recommendations of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on screening intervals for patients with hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer; [73033]

(2) what information his Department holds on the screening intervals used by each NHS Trust for patients with hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer. [73034]

Paul Burstow: For patients identified as being at risk of developing hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (HNPCC), "Improving Outcomes in Colorectal Cancers", updated by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2004, recommends frequent surveillance from a young age. The guidance states that the frequency of this screening should be based on the recommendations of the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) and the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland (ACPGBI).

"Guidelines for colorectal cancer screening and surveillance in moderate and high risk groups", published on behalf of the BSG and ACPGBI and updated in 2009, recommends that, from the age of 25, patients identified as being at risk of developing HNPCC receive a colonoscopy at intervals of between 18 and 24 months. From the age of 50, surveillance should also include an oesophagogastroduodenoscopy every two years. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

The surveillance of people identified as being at risk of HNPCC is managed locally. The Department does not monitor the surveillance protocols that are in place for individual patients.

Decisions regarding the surveillance of patients who have been diagnosed with HNPCC are made by clinicians on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual circumstances of each patient.

Disease Control

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to reduce non-communicable diseases following the UN high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases on 19 and 20 September 2011. [73061]

Anne Milton: The Department is addressing the growing burden of non-communicable diseases by tackling the common underlying risk factors and wider social and environmental determinants. The primary focus is on prevention, with actions directed at reducing tobacco use, harmful consumption of alcohol and physical inactivity and improving diet and nutrition. We have also established the Responsibility Deal, in partnership with commercial and voluntary organisations and public health professionals, to support people to change their behaviour and achieve real sustained improvements in public health.

In the national health service, we are strengthening our primary care—putting the patient at the heart of service delivery. The NHS Health Check programme aids early detection of diabetes, cardiovascular and kidney diseases and timely intervention through integrated patient care while maintaining the focus on equity and the most vulnerable.

Internationally, working with the Department of International Development, we are helping developing countries to build health systems that can meet the challenge of non-communicable disease and all causes of ill health.

Drugs: Misuse

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the tendering process was for the recently published National Addiction Centre and National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse reports on addiction to medicine; where invitations to tender were advertised; and what requirements there were for declaration of interests by those involved. [73378]

Anne Milton: The standard procurement process for contract values of less than £10,000 was followed in letting the contract to produce the literature review on addiction to medicines. Three organisations were invited to submit bids, and following the consideration of written proposals, the National Addiction Centre was selected.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) is a Special Health Authority which is an arm's length body of the Department of Health. The Department instructed the NTA to interrogate the data sources at its disposal and no external tenders were invited.

The Research Councils UK policy and code of conduct on the governance of good research conduct and the UK Research Integrity Office code of conduct for research make clear the requirements for declaring interests.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which non-departmental bodies, agencies or arm's length bodies for which the Department of Health has responsibility or oversight made use of the Government Procurement Card in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [73456]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the non-departmental bodies, agencies or arm's length bodies (ALBs) for which the Department of Health has responsibility or oversight that made use of the Government Procurement Card in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

ALB name	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Appointments Commission	Yes	Yes	Yes
Health Protection Agency	Yes	Yes	Yes
Health and Social Care Information Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes
Human Tissue Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes
NHS Blood and Transplant	No	No	Yes
NHS Business Services Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement	[1]Yes	Yes	Yes

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[1] For part of year.

Health and Social Care Bill

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials are working on the passage through Parliament of the Health and Social Care Bill; and what the cost was of employing those officials in the latest period for which figures are available. [72671]

Mr Simon Burns: As with all Government Bills, the Department has a central Bill team working full time on the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill. The team employs five permanent departmental officials at a cost of approximately £160,000 from the Bill's introduction in the House of Commons in January 2011 until August 2011 (the latest period for which figures are available). In addition, two permanent departmental officials have been working on Lords and stakeholder handling since May, at an approximate cost of £32,000 (until August 2011, the latest period for which figures are available).

In addition, officials from up to 20 policy teams have contributed to the work on the Bill, as part of their wider duties. For these officials, it is not possible to disentangle work directly related to the passage of the Bill from their wider policy development role.

Health Services: North West

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the future of the building that formerly housed the Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre. [73811]

Mr Simon Burns: No discussions have taken place with Ministers on the future of the building that formerly housed the Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre.

The local national health service is currently exploring options for the utilisation of the building and a period of public consultation has recently ended.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value was of payments made to other European economic area countries for health care provided to British citizens under the European Health Insurance Card in 2010-11; and what the monetary value was of payments received by his Department for treatment in the UK of nationals of other European economic area countries under the scheme in the same period. [73641]

Anne Milton: In 2010-11, the total monetary value of payments made by the United Kingdom to other member states of the European economic area (EEA) and Switzerland for actual cost claims for health care provided to UK citizens in other member states was £62.4 million. The total monetary value of payments made by other member states of the EEA to the UK in 2010-11 for actual cost claims for health care provided to EEA citizens in the UK was £26.3 million. These payments relate to combined claims for temporary visitors (via European Health Insurance Cards); workers temporarily posted abroad by their employer; and referrals for treatment in other EEA countries. Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not currently possible to disaggregate the data consistently for all member states by either type of claim or type of treatment.

Ipswich Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many emergency admissions there were at Ipswich Hospital in each year since 1997; [73712]

(2) how much Ipswich Hospital received in emergency admissions payments in each year since 1997. [73753]

Mr Simon Burns: Information about national health service trust income specifically relating to emergency admissions is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of emergency admissions at the Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust from 1997-98 to 2009-10.

	Emergency admissions
2009-10	28,796
2008-09	26,776
2007-08	25,638
2006-07	27,851
2005-06	29,217
2004-05	27,546
2003-04	26,463
2002-03	24,086
2001-02	24,735
2000-01	23,083
1999-2000	22,502
1998-99	21,826
1997-98	20,438

Notes:

1. Data are for finished admission episodes (FAE). An FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Emergency admissions are collected from the following codes: 21=via accident and emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider 22=via general practitioner 23=via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau 24=via consultant out-patient clinic 28=other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider.

3. Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. However, in the case of those with embedded treatment centres, these data are quoted separately. In these cases, "X" is appended to the code for the rest of the trust, to remind users that the figures are for all sites of the trust excluding the treatment centres. The quality of TC returns are such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of dataflows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using this data as the counts may be lower than true figures.

4. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

5. Activity included: activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Maternity Services

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he plans to improve the outcomes of NHS maternity care. [72980]

Anne Milton: The Department has identified improving the safety of maternity services as an improvement area in the "National Health Service Outcomes Framework for 2011-12". To support the NHS in improving outcomes in pregnancy, labour and immediately after birth, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will develop new quality standards, based on the best available evidence, on antenatal care, intrapartum care and postnatal care.

The Department also encourages early access to maternity services and has included the maternity 12-week early access indicator as one of the measures for quality in the "NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12". Early access supports the dissemination of public health advice on how to minimise the risk of adverse outcomes and where possible enables those women at higher risk of complications to be identified at an early stage and receive additional support and monitoring.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* midwife-led and *(b)* consultant-led maternity units there are in each region. [72982]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect information on the number of midwife-led and consultant-led maternity units. Information supplied to NHS Choices is shown in the following table:

Strategic health authority	*Midwife-led units*	*Consultant-led (obstetric) units*
North-east	7	11
North-west	5	27
Yorkshire and The Humber	7	21
East midlands	4	10
West midlands	9	19
East of England	6	21
London	4	28
South east coast	3	21
South central	11	10
South-west	17	16

Source:
NHS Choices.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total NHS expenditure on mental health was in *(a)* London, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* Kent in each of the last 15 years. [74064]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Programme budgeting estimated expenditure on own population's mental health problems by primary care trusts (PCTs) within the London and South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA) regions, and PCTs in Kent for 2003-04 to 2009-10

	Estimated expenditure on mental health problems (£ million)				
Financial year	*London SHA*	*South East Coast SHA*	*Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT*	*West Kent PCT*	*Medway PCT*
2003-04	1,321.6	481.8	95.3	70.0	23.8
2004-05	1,476.7	552.8	101.2	73.0	30.3
2005-06	1,626.1	535.7	94.9	78.4	31.5
2006-07	1,728.4	555.7	102.5	56.8	33.2
2007-08	1,848.3	658.8	110.2	106.6	32.2
2008-09	1,934.8	666.6	130.8	97.3	35.9
2009-10	2,030.9	729.6	143.6	101.6	41.4

Notes:
1. Programme budgeting data were first collected in 2003-04. The Department cannot provide estimated expenditure figures on specific disease categories such as mental health problems in the years prior to this. Data have not yet been published for 2010-11.
2. In order to improve data quality, continual refinements have been made to the programme budgeting data calculation methodology since the first collection in 2003-04.
3. The underlying data which support programme budgeting data are also subject to yearly changes. Caution is therefore advised when using programme budgeting data to draw conclusions on changes in PCT spending patterns between years.
4. Figures include expenditure across all sectors. Disease specific expenditure do not include expenditure on prevention, or general practitioner expenditure, but do include prescribing expenditure.
5. Figures for 2003-04 are net expenditure. Figures for 2004-05 onwards are net expenditure adjusted to add back expenditure funded from sources outside of the national health service and to deduct expenditure on other PCTs populations incurred through lead commissioning arrangements.
6. SHA level expenditure is calculated using the combined expenditure figures of each PCT within the SHA area. It does not include expenditure by the SHA.
7. Table figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

Source:
Annual PCT programme budgeting financial returns

Mental Health Services: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated for mental health services in the London borough of Islington in each of the last five years; and how much funding has been allocated for such services in *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [74316]

Mr Simon Burns: Recurrent revenue allocations are currently made to primary care trusts (PCTs) and not to local authority boroughs. The allocations made to Islington PCT for the last five years are provided in the following table.

	Recurrent revenue allocation (£000)
2011-12	435,038
2010-11	433,316
2009-10	412,126
2008-09	383,806

	Recurrent revenue allocation (£000)
2007-08	363,928

Notes:
Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes to baseline funding. For example, in 2011-12 there was a locally agreed transfer from PCTs to local authorities of funding and commissioning responsibility for the social care of people with learning disabilities.

Once allocated, it is for PCTs to use this funding to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities. Funds are not allocated separately to PCTs for mental health services. For information on funding used by Islington PCT to commission mental health services in the borough, the hon. Member should contact NHS North Central London.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, from 2013-14 the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for the allocation of resources to clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). The board will allocate resources to CCGs in a way that supports the principle of securing equivalent access to NHS services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability. How these allocations are determined will be a matter for the board.

Midwives: Training

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many places for student midwives there were in each region in academic year 2010-11. [72983]

Anne Milton: The following table shows training places commissioned for student midwives by strategic health authority for the academic year 2010 to 2011.

	Degree	*18 month conversion diploma*	*Total*
NHS North East	65	25	90
NHS North West	221	12	233
NHS Yorkshire and the Humber	224	31	255
NHS East Midlands	146	24	170
NHS West Midlands	241	54	295
NHS East England	253	31	284
NHS London	388	187	575
NHS South East Coast	165	54	219
NHS South Central	174	24	198
NHS South West	157	12	169
England total	2,034	454	2,488

Source:
Quarterly Monitoring Returns

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student midwives were in receipt of a bursary in the academic year 2010-11; what the average bursary paid to a student midwife was in that year; and what the total cost was to his Department of bursaries paid to student midwives. [73314]

Anne Milton: The number of midwifery students who held a bursary, the average bursary paid to those students and the total cost of all bursaries paid to student midwives in academic year 2010-11 can be found in the following table.

	Number of bursary holders[1]	*Average amount paid per bursary holder*[2] *(£)*	*Total amount paid*[2] *(£)*
2010-11	5,218	5,722	29,854,947

[1] Includes nil award holders (European Union fees only students and students whose living allowance element of the Bursary has been reduced to nil after income assessment).

[2] Includes the basic award, all supplementary allowances and one-off payments.

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

Source:
NHS Student Bursaries Services Authority

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* variation and *(b)* quality of provision of musculoskeletal services in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [73970]

Paul Burstow: We are aware of anecdotal evidence of variations in the quality of provision of musculoskeletal services in the national health service, alongside many examples of good practice. We intend to hold the NHS to account, through the NHS Commissioning Board, for achieving sustained improvements in the quality of life of all patients with long-term conditions, including those with musculoskeletal disease, and for helping people to recover from episodes of ill-health and injury.

There are many existing sources of guidance, including clinical guidelines and other guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). In addition we plan to ask NICE to develop quality standards for some of the major musculoskeletal conditions, so that patients and commissioners can have a clear view of the standards of care which the NHS should be aspiring to achieve.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that NHS hospital trusts abide by his Department's guidance on the use of confidentiality clauses in compromise agreements. [74257]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not routinely monitor the use of confidentiality clauses in compromise agreements. The Department's guidance, contained within the health circular HSC 2004/001, does not prevent the use of confidentiality clauses per se. However, it does state that national health service employers must consider with their legal advisers whether such a clause is necessary in the circumstances of each case and, if such a clause is included within a particular agreement, that it complies with their various statutory obligations regarding the treatment of confidential information, including the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

Before an employee considers signing a compromise agreement, which may or may not contain a confidentiality clause, the employer is required to pay for the employee to have independent legal advice on the terms of the agreement.

NHS: Reorganisation

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials are working on the reorganisation of the NHS; and what the cost was of employing those officials in the latest period for which figures are available. [72670]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental staff are working directly and indirectly to deliver the new health and social care system. Staff numbers and costs associated with change in the national health service are not easily divisible from other departmental activities, including work on improvement. There is a central Bill team, and over-arching Integrated Programme Office.

The central Bill team work full time on the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament. This team comprises five permanent departmental officials at a cost of approximately £160,000 from January to August 2011 (the latest period for which figures are available). Two permanent officials have also been working on Lords and stakeholder handling since May, at an approximate cost of £32,000. In addition, the Integrated Programme Office is co-ordinating transition to the new system in the Department and currently has 29 staff with an estimated cost of £862,000 from April 2011 to August 2011.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibilities in respect of proposed *(a)* hospital closures and *(b)* health service reconfigurations (i) he has under present arrangements and (ii) he would have under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill; and if he will make a statement. [73131]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), will retain ultimate accountability for securing the provision of services. However, this will be done through his relationships with the national health service bodies established by the Health and Social Care Bill. Ministers will be responsible not for direct operational management, but for overseeing and holding to account the national bodies. The reconfiguration of services will continue, as now, to be a locally-led and managed process.

Where there are concerns or disputes over reconfigurations that cannot be resolved locally, we are retaining existing powers in legislation for local authority scrutiny functions to be able to refer schemes. We are also proposing to amend the scrutiny regulations so that, in the first instance, referrals are to the NHS Commissioning Board and, if outstanding issues remain, to the Secretary of State. This is consistent with the Government's vision to develop a more locally accountable and autonomous NHS. However, the Commissioning Board and the Secretary of State will have powers to direct commissioners if they consider this is an appropriate response following a referral.

Social Work: Qualifications

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future levels of qualifications required for students studying social work; and if he will make a statement. [74106]

Paul Burstow: Social work is a degree level entry profession and there are no plans to change this. The 'Requirements for Social Work Training' (Department of Health, 2002) set out the outcome statements for what a student social worker must know, understand and be able to do to be awarded the degree in social work.

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Streptococcus: Screening

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on testing women for group B streptococcal infection during pregnancy; and if he will make a statement. [73972]

Anne Milton: The UK National Screening, which advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy, considered its policy for screening for group B streptococcus (GBS) carriage in pregnancy in 2009. The policy review concluded that the evidence did not support the introduction of screening. The policy is due to be considered again in 2012, or earlier, if significant new evidence emerges.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has produced a Green-top guideline, 'Prevention of Early Onset Group B Streptococcal Disease', which provides guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists on the prevention of early-onset neonatal GBS disease. The RCOG has also produced information for women and their families who are expecting a baby or planning to become pregnant, 'Preventing group B streptococcus (GBS) infection in newborn babies—information for you'.

Surgery: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many labiaplasty operations were performed by the NHS in each year since 2006; and at what cost. [74070]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information is in the following table. Information on the cost of labiality reductions cannot be separately identified from that for other related procedures.

Finished consultant episodes with labia reduction as primary or secondary procedure

	Activity
2006-07	404
2007-08	669
2008-09	1,118
2009-10	1,378

Notes:
1. Figures are for all English hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
2. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider, FCEs are counted against the year in which they end.
3. Care should be taken in comparing figures for different years because of changes in data quality and coverage, in particular coverage of the independent sector.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age of patients undergoing NHS labiaplasty operations was in the last year. [74071]

Mr Simon Burns: The average age of patients undergoing labiaplasty operations funded by the national health service in 2009-10 was 30.

Warrington Primary Care Trust: Debts

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any of Warrington primary care trust's debts will be passed on to the GP consortium set up to cover the same area. [73812]

Mr Simon Burns: In line with the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework, the Department does not expect there to be debt relating to deficit in the accounts of primary care trusts (PCTs) in their final year of operation.

The 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework states that general practitioner consortia (now clinical commissioning groups or CCGs) will have their own budgets from 2013-14 and they will not be responsible for resolving PCT legacy debt that arose prior to 2011-12. PCTs and clusters must ensure that, through planning in 2011-12 and 2012-13, all existing legacy issues are dealt with.

During 2011-12 and 2012-13, the Department expects PCTs and developing CCGs to work together to ensure financial control is maintained to prevent PCT deficits in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This will reduce the risk for CCGs that they could acquire responsibility for post-2010-11 PCT deficit unresolved at the point of PCT abolition.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the salary, including benefits, was of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years. [72443]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created in June 2009 following a machinery of government change which merged the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Professor Brian Collins was appointed as the first BERR chief scientific adviser in May 2008 and he became the BIS chief scientific adviser (CSA) following the machinery of government changes. DIUS did not have a CSA. Professor Collins left BIS in May 2011 at the end of his three year appointment. BIS has recently undergone an internal restructuring and an open competition is currently under way to select a new CSA.

Professor Collins was paid within the senior civil service pay band 2, which is currently £82,900 to £162,500.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72444]

Mr Willetts: The chief scientific adviser's (CSA) office in BIS was established in May 2008. It was resourced by a part-time CSA (0.4 full-time equivalent, senior civil servant (pay band 2), and one part-time office manager (executive officer) (0.4 full-time equivalent). A full-time assistant chief scientific adviser (Grade 7) was employed from September 2008 and a senior policy adviser (senior executive officer) was employed from November 2010.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61681]

Mr Davey: BIS expects all suppliers to maintain high standards of integrity and professionalism in their business dealings. The Department's standard contractual terms reflect this requirement. There are no specific terms relating to behavioural standards but standard contract terms require the contractor to comply with standards applying to "confidentiality", "data protection", "prevention of bribery", "compliance with the Official Secrets Acts", "conflict of interest", "non-discrimination", "equality", "health and safety" and "TUPE".

European Investment Bank

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the interest rates charged to businesses under European Investment Bank funding in comparison to those offered under the terms of standard loans from UK banks; and if he will make a statement. [72721]

Mr Prisk: The interest rates charged to businesses under European Investment Bank (EIB) funding in comparison to that offered under the terms of standard loans are the subject of a contractual agreement between the EIB and the banks that are accessing EIB funding. Banks are contractually obliged to pass on to small and medium-sized enterprises the funding advantage arising from the use of EIB financing.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance he provides to banks on information to be provided to their clients on European Investment Bank funding. [72722]

Mr Prisk: The Government provide no guidance to banks in relation to European Investment Bank (EIB) loans. Banks are contractually obliged to advertise the EIB's contribution when a loan is made under an EIB funding facility.

The Government provide information on what EIB funding is available for small and medium-sized businesses and how to access an EIB-financed loan on the businesslink.gov website (including a list of banks providing funding on EIB). See:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1083207823&type=RESOURCES

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small companies have received European Investment Bank funding in the last year. [72723]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold this information.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the performance of UK banks in delivering European Investment Bank funding for small companies. [72724]

Mr Prisk: No research has been commissioned on this subject.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73730]

Mr Davey: The Department and its predecessors have had no instances of officials using a Government Procurement Card to withdraw cash from automated teller machines in the period 2006-07 to 2009-10. It is the Department's policy that cash withdrawals of any nature are not permitted via a Government Procurement Card.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role he envisages for professional business advisers in the establishment of new businesses within *(a)* enterprise zones and *(b)* areas represented by local enterprise partnerships. [73788]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) are developed from the bottom up. It is for them to decide how they pursue their priorities across their local areas and within their enterprise zones.

Stimulating enterprise has been identified by many LEPs as a key priority and was the subject of a workshop at the recent LEP Network inaugural event. This provided LEP chairs with the opportunity to share ideas on how they are pursuing this objective in their localities.

The Department is also demonstrating to LEPs how they can syndicate content from the Business.gov website which will increase the number of online channels for small and medium-sized enterprises to access the site's content and tools.

National Planning Policy Framework

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many officials in his Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government; [71890]

(2) how many officials in his Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the practitioners' advisory group. [71895]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Decentralisation and Cities, Department for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 16W.

Post Offices

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on the re-opening of sub-post offices; and if he will make a statement. [73374]

Mr Davey: Before considering any expansion of the post office network it is critical to ensure that the existing network is thriving. The Government have provided £1.34 billion of funding over the period of the spending review to modernise the network and safeguard the post office network's future. As part of this package, Post Office Ltd has committed to maintain a network of at least 11,500 branches over the whole period, and to continue to adhere to the strict access criteria that demand that 99% of the national population live within three miles of a post office outlet. Under this Government there will be no further post office closure programmes.

Operational matters, such as the provision and location of individual post office branches are the responsibility of the management of Post Office Ltd. The Government, as shareholder, do not play a role in these matters, and do not comment on, or influence, decisions relating to individual post office branches.

Regeneration: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of Liverpool Vision funding on small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency and *(b)* Merseyside. [74172]

Mr Prisk: Liverpool Vision is part of the local response to changes in arrangements for business support for small and medium-sized businesses which will come into effect over the coming months. It has an important role in identifying and encouraging high-growth businesses of the future, particularly in life sciences and the creative and digital sector.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the ability of small and medium-sized businesses in Liverpool, Walton constituency to gain access to Liverpool Vision funding. [74174]

Mr Prisk: Liverpool Vision is part of the local response to changes in arrangements for business support for small and medium-sized businesses which will come into effect over the coming months. It is currently working with the *Liverpool Echo* newspaper on delivery of a successful Regional Growth Fund bid to stimulate growth in small and medium-sized businesses in the Liverpool City Region through media advocacy. This will provide businesses with access to grants and to additional support through coaching and mentoring.

Regional Growth Fund

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce his decision on bids made by organisations in the Bristol area for funding from the Regional Growth Fund. [73628]

Mr Prisk: Announcements from the first round of Regional Growth Fund bidding were made on 12 April and this includes one bid which has an impact in the Bristol area. Bids received in the second round of bidding are being assessed and we aim to make announcements in the autumn.

Science: Government Departments

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to include *(a)* non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* advisory bodies, *(c)* executive agencies, *(d)* public corporations and *(e)* other central Government public bodies in his review of science in Government Departments under the Science and Engineering Assurance programme. [72446]

Mr Willetts: The Science and Engineering Assurance review programme is directed by the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Sir John Beddington and managed by his staff in the Government Office for Science.

The Science and Engineering Assurance programme is focused on Whitehall's ministerial Departments, and is scheduled to be completed early in 2012.

These reviews do consider how Departments draw evidence and advice from their relevant arm's length bodies, but the bodies themselves are not reviewed as part of the process.

On completion of the programme, Sir John is not planning to continue to review Departments in the same way. Work is under way to develop a successor to the review programme. At this stage there are no plans to extend it to Departments' arm's length bodies.

South East England Development Agency

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the largest redundancy payment which will be made to an employee of the South East England Development Agency by March 2012; [71925]

(2) how much the South East England Development Agency spent on employee expenses in each of the last five years. [71931]

Mr Prisk: The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) pays redundancy in accordance with the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. The highest redundancy payment to an individual under the scheme in the period between the announcement of regional development agency abolition (June 2010) to 31 March 2011 will be just over £100,000 based on the scheme's tariff of one month's salary per year of service.

Details of reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses are available in SEEDA's annual reports and accounts. Those for the last five years are as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure on travel and subsistence (£000)*
2010-11	248
2009-10	492
2008-09	691
2007-08	754
2006-07	887

Students: Loans

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on progression to higher education for students aged 24 years and over who are required to take out a loan to support themselves. [74122]

Mr Willetts: Students aged 24 years and over are not expected to be disproportionately affected by the reforms as they will also be eligible for fee loans.

The equalities impact assessment published in November 2010 explained that mature students are less likely to be put off getting a loan, as they will face a shorter remaining working life and therefore length of time to pay back the loan; they are more likely to have their debt forgiven.

Mature students are more likely than younger students to obtain support in the form of maintenance grants from the Government, as they are classed as 'independent' students and entitlements to student support are based on their own income. Additionally, mature students are more likely to study part-time and therefore are more likely to benefit from the new fee loans for part-time students.

Teachers: English Language

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the average cost of *(a)* training and *(b)* employing a teacher for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. [73872]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The Department has no information on the costs of training and employing teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages. The Government are not the employer of the Further Education (FE) workforce and, as independent organisations, it is for FE colleges and other training providers to make decisions on the training and employment of staff based on their business needs.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Badgers

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely trends in the prevalence of infection in badgers inside the specified culling areas in the first year of the operation of the new arrangements. [68432]

Mr Paice: Our objective is to bring down the incidence of bovine TB in cattle throughout England from its current unacceptable level.

Currently there is no reliable diagnostic field test for bovine TB in live badgers, so it would not be possible to know the prevalence of TB in badgers in an area before culling. Therefore, the effect of culling on prevalence in the first year could not be seen.

Primates: Experiments

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to recommendation nine of the review of research using non-human primates chaired by Professor Sir Patrick Bateson FRS, what steps her Department takes to ensure non-human primate experiments undertaken overseas and funded by UK organisations comply with National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research guidelines. [73613]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) guidelines 'Primate accommodation, care and use' are a condition of funding of the major research council and charitable funders of primate research. The NC3Rs advises the funding bodies on implementation of the principles in the guidance. The guidelines apply to any research involving primates conducted in the UK and abroad which is funded by the NC3Rs, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Medical Research Council, the Royal Society, the Wellcome Trust or other AMRC charities. Researchers and their host establishments are responsible for applying the guidelines.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 17 October 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74363]

Mr Paterson: The Department figures for payment of supplier invoices in July and August 2010 were 96% and 97% respectively. This information is available to the public and is published on our web site at the following link:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/nio-publication/nio-pubs-search-results.htm?category=&keyword=prompt+payment&order=date&submitbutton.x=15&submitbutton.y=5

The target for payment of supplier invoices has now changed to five working days, effective from May 2010. The Department currently reports its performance against this target.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73109]

Mr Paterson: When engaging external consultants, my Department follows the guidance and procedures set out by the Central Procurement Directorate of the Department of Finance and Personnel and/or the Cabinet Office's Government Procurement Service, as appropriate.

Transport-related Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many transport-related fines his Department and its predecessors have settled on behalf of staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74365]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available before 12 April 2010 following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions. However, since April 2010 there have been no transport-related fines settled for any staff in my Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72939]

Mr Paterson: My Department spent a total of £1,095 on new furnishings in the last financial year, 2010-11.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74364]

Mr Paterson: During the 2010-11 financial year, my Department spent a total of £38,000 on training and development—the vast majority of this was provided internally by the National School of Government in Great Britain, or the Centre for Applied Learning in Northern Ireland. It is not possible to provide a further breakdown of these costs without incurring disproportionate cost.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers' Licensing Reform

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects changes to the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme to be implemented. [73943]

Mrs Villiers: The recent consultation on reform of the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme proposed that the new secondary legislation needed to implement the reforms should come into effect on 1 January 2012.

A number of consultation responses and other representations raised concerns about the relatively short time this would allow to prepare for the introduction of the ATOL certificate and other reforms. I am currently considering all the consultation responses and plan to make an announcement on the way forward with the reforms later in the autumn.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely costs to travel businesses of implementing his proposals for changes to the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme. [73945]

Mrs Villiers: The impact assessment, published alongside the ATOL Reform Consultation document, estimated that the cost to travel businesses of implementing the proposed reforms would be between £5.5 million and £11.5 million per year.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74347]

Norman Baker: The target to pay 90% of invoices within 10 days has been replaced by a target to pay 80% of invoices within five days, and the reply is set out on this basis.

The percentage of invoices paid within five days of receipt for the Department and its agencies for July and August is as follows:

		Percentage
	July 2010	*August 2010*
Central Department	96	95
Driving Standards	96	96
Driver and Vehicle Licensing	91	89
Highways	68	86
Maritime and Coastguard	95	97
Vehicle Certification	93	96
Vehicle and Operator Services	85	84
Government Car and Despatch	85	89
Total	84	91

The departmental commercial terms generally specify that payment will be made within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice. The percentage of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt for the Department and its agencies for July and August is as follows:

		Percentage
	July 2010	*August 2010*
Central Department	100	99
Driving Standards	100	100
Driver and Vehicle Licensing	100	100
Highways	99	99
Maritime and Coastguard	100	100
Vehicle Certification	99	100
Vehicle and Operator Services	100	100
Government Car and Despatch	99	100
Total	100	100

I also refer the hon. Lady to my answer of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1229-31W, where this information was previously provided to the hon. Member for Dundee East (Stewart Hosie).

The percentage of invoices paid within five days and 30 days of receipt for the Department and its seven agencies for the same months of 2011 is published on the Department's website at the following address:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/prompt-payment-statistics/statistics.pdf

Official Hospitality

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what official *(a)* lunches, *(b)* dinners and *(c)* receptions he has hosted in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) location, (ii) total cost to the public purse and (iii) purpose was of each such event. [72809]

Norman Baker: The then Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has hosted two official dinners in the last 12 months:

March 2011—An official dinner at Lancaster House, at a cost of £993.42 to the public purse, the purpose of which was an introductory meeting with the French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing and her delegation to discuss cargo screening in aviation security, the approach to the implementation of the air quality directive and other issues.

June 2011—An official dinner at Lancaster House, at a cost of £2,104.62 to the public purse, the purpose of which was an introductory meeting with the US Secretary of Transportation and his delegation to discuss High Speed Rail and the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme.

The then Secretary of State for Transport has not hosted any official lunches or receptions in this time period.

Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the maintenance backlog was in his Department's estate in each of the last five years. [73075]

Norman Baker: I regret that the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73717]

Norman Baker: Staff have not made any cash withdrawals with the Government Procurement Card from automated teller machines since 2006.

London Paddington to Bristol Railway Line: Electrification

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the electrification of the rail line from London Paddington to Bristol; and if he will make a statement. [74886]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have confirmed their commitment to funding the electrification of the Great Western main line to Bristol, which is now being delivered by Network Rail. I expect electric passenger services to commence on time in 2016.

Motor Vehicles: EU Action

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on independent motorcycle repairers of the proposed EU Regulation on the type approval and market surveillance of 2- and 3-wheeled vehicles and quadricycles. [73019]

Mike Penning: The repair information aspect of the Commission's proposal will ensure maintenance information is more readily accessible to independent repairers. This will enable them to compete more effectively with franchised repairers.

The effective functioning of a competitive market for motorcycle repair will ensure best value for consumers.

Parking: Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the sums in outstanding parking fines owed to local authorities by drivers of foreign-registered vehicles. [74149]

Norman Baker: None. Individual local authorities are required to keep records of all penalty charge notices issued, including those issued to drivers of foreign-registered vehicles. The Department for Transport does not record this information centrally.

Railways: Felixstowe

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the electrification of the railroute from Felixstowe to Nuneaton; and if he will make a statement. [73804]

Mrs Villiers: The Government support a progressive electrification of the rail network in England and Wales where this is affordable and generates value for money. Electrification should reduce the cost of running the railways, increase efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. We continue to work with Network Rail to look at the case for further electrification in the next rail control period starting in 2014.

Roads: Cyclists

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to ensure adequate maintenance and improvement of cycleways and footways in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. [73935]

Norman Baker: The maintenance and improvement of cycleways and footways in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a matter for Cambridgeshire county council and Peterborough city council respectively.

Roads: Gloucestershire

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Highways Agency on the duration of the proposed closure of the A4019 on the approach to Junction 10 of the M5; and if he will make a statement. [74059]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The proposed closure of the overbridge which carries the A4019 over the M5 at Junction 10 is necessary in order to replace the bridge. The foundations of the structure are suffering from sulphate attack, which is reducing their strength, making replacement essential.

The current works programme is based on keeping the A4019 open for traffic for the busy period during the Cheltenham Festival. The current estimated duration of works, allowing for demolition of the existing bridge and foundations and construction of a new two-span bridge is 47 weeks. However, the Highways Agency will be inviting tenders for this work that will encourage contractors to reduce this duration as much as possible.

I have discussed this project with the Highways Agency. I understand that it has been discussing it with the officers of Gloucestershire county council, the local highway authority, for two years. These discussions are ongoing and will continue to ensure that diversion routes and signage for the works are appropriate.

Rolling Stock

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether limits on the volume of train horns apply to train operating companies. [73300]

Mrs Villiers: Limits on the volume of train horns do apply to train operating companies. These are defined by European Technical Standards for Interoperability (TSI) and UK Rail Group Standards.

Siemens

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any Siemens *(a)* employees and *(b)* consultants (i) hold and (ii) have held security passes allowing access to his Department in the last five years. [72785]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 11 October 2011]:* I regret that the information requested can be established only at disproportionate cost. I can however confirm that no employee or consultant of Siemens working on the Thameslink project has been issued with a permanent security pass. Siemens employees and their consultants have been issued with visitor passes when they have visited DFT premises, at which time they have been escorted by DFT staff.

Transport: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on local transport services in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [73554]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* We have radically simplified the Department for Transport's (DFT's) funding to local authorities from 26 grant streams to just four. This change has provided local authorities with greater participation and financial autonomy. The Department, therefore, has not made assessments of local impacts.

The DFT's block capital allocations to Nottinghamshire have been published and can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-transport-capital-block-funding/

Nottinghamshire is already benefitting from the £9 million centrally-funded Mansfield Public Transport Interchange. The Department is also currently assessing the bid for full approval for phase two of the Nottingham Express Transit. The requested DFT contribution is £433.5 million over the lifetime of the project. The DFT is also currently assessing bids for the Nottingham Ring Road and Hucknall Town Centre schemes as part of the Development pool competition. The requested DFT contributions are £12.8 million and £8.5 million respectively.

As well as funding to local authorities, the Department supports local bus services through the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG). On a national level, the Department has carried out an equalities impact assessment. I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 702W.

SCOTLAND

Air Passenger Duty

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the devolution of air passenger duty in Scotland following the announcement regarding air passenger duty for long-haul flights from Northern Ireland. [74659]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), has regular meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), to discuss a range of issues, including all financial issues related to the Scotland Bill.

Child care

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he last met the First Minister to discuss future provision of child care support in Scotland. [73256]

Michael Moore: I am in contact with the First Minister on a range of matters. My officials are engaged with officials from the Scottish Government on aspects of the Government's welfare reform agenda that affect Scotland.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74387]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office paid 100% of invoices within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) the current and (ii) the next financial year; and what the cost will be of each such project. [74386]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has no building projects or refurbishment projects currently planned in the present financial year or in the next financial year.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73110]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not generally undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises framework contracts between suppliers and other Government bodies. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money.

Transport-related Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74389]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office maintains the policy that road traffic violations are the responsibility of the individual and are not reimbursed from public funds. As such, there has been no expenditure on transport-related fines since 2007.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* full- and *(b)* part-time employees his Department employed in each year since 1997. [74598]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Information on staff numbers is routinely published in the Office's Annual Report, copies of which are in the House Library. A breakdown of part-time staff is not provided as identification of individuals may be possible in view of the numbers involved.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73660]

David Mundell: Scotland Office expenditure on hospitality for events hosted by each Scotland Office Minister in each of the last 12 months is as shown in the following table:

£

	Secretary of State for Scotland	*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland*	*Advocate-General for Scotland*
2010			
October	626.73	0.00	0.00
November	1,396.42	0.00	0.00
December	3,259.11	0.00	0.00
2011			
January	855.00	0.00	0.00
February	1,246.77	0.00	0.00
March	463.35	0.00	0.00
April	0.00	0.00	0.00
May	0.00	120.00	0.00
June	5,291.27	0.00	0.00
July	0.00	0.00	68.67
August	6,221.25	0.00	0.00
September	10.44	300.00	0.00
Total	19,370.34	420.00	68.67

All expenditure incurred was in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million and *(c)* over £1 million his Department and its predecessor have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74215]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. It generally does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. Rather, it utilises framework contracts between suppliers and other

Government bodies. Of the small contracts held by the Scotland Office, none has a monetary value of over £100,000.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72940]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office spent £2,748 on furnishings in 2010-11.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74388]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office encourages all staff to undertake learning and development activities. External training courses may be considered where opportunities are not available through central Government.

The Office does not maintain a central record of external training courses attended. However, £12,672 was spent on staff training in the year 2010-11.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73203]

David Mundell: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Government procurement card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73718]

David Mundell: The first Scotland Office Government procurement card transaction took place during the financial year 2007-08. Since then, no cash withdrawals have been made using Government procurement cards.

Social Fund

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he last met the First Minister to discuss the ending of the social fund. [73257]

Michael Moore: I am in contact with the First Minister on a range of matters. My officials are engaged with officials from the Scottish Government on aspects of the Government's welfare reform agenda that affect Scotland.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73990]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has no responsibility for funding civil sector organisations.

Unemployment: Females

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Government on the rate of unemployment among female workers. [74658]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers and officials have ongoing discussions with the Scottish Government about the number of people in Scotland claiming jobseeker's allowance and trends in labour market statistics.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Backbench Business Committee

Chris Ruane: To ask the Leader of the House what consideration he has given to forwarding to the Backbench Business Committee for consideration for debate petitions presented to the Government with 100,000 signatures collected *(a)* both on the Government's e-petitions website and on paper, *(b)* both on the Government's e-petitions website and elsewhere online, *(c)* on paper only, *(d)* on a website other than the Government's e-petitions website only, *(e)* on paper and online but not on the Government's e-petitions website and *(f)* on paper, on the Government's e-petitions website and elsewhere online. [73373]

Sir George Young: The Government have chosen to use their own online system for e-petitions as it allowed wide access and a simple way to show support for an issue, while also enabling the Government to quickly and easily verify the validity of signatures. Such verification is not easily manageable with paper petitions or on external websites, and so these signatures are not included as part of the 100,000 threshold.

The Backbench Business Committee has made clear its continued willingness to accept paper petitions upon presentation to the House by a Member of Parliament.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Leader of the House whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his office use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73206]

Sir George Young: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Hillsborough Disaster

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Leader of the House what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister since his appointment on the unredacted release of the Hillsborough Cabinet minutes. [74295]

Sir George Young: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on 14 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 506W.

WALES

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in her Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73201]

Mr David Jones: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many Government procurement card transactions were made by her Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73715]

Mr David Jones: None.

Roads: A55

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost to the public purse was of the construction of the interchange between the A55 and A5104 at Broughton (junction 36 of the A55). [69461]

Mr David Jones: The funding of repairs and improvements for trunk roads in Wales, such as the A55 and A5104, are the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

I understand, however, that the improvements cost the Welsh Government £3.6 million and consisted of the construction of an interchange and two roundabouts on the A5104.

Trade Union Activities

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will have discussions with the Welsh Government on ending the practice of civil servants in Wales working full time on trade union activities. [73825]

Mr David Jones: The Cabinet Office is currently reviewing the practice of civil servants working full time on trade union activities.

We will discuss this review with the Welsh Government in due course and, once the review is complete, negotiate with the unions, including those that represent civil servants in Wales.

EDUCATION

Nursery Education

19. **Peter Aldous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made on extending free nursery education to disadvantaged two-year-olds. [74437]

Sarah Teather: The Education Bill, currently being considered in another place, will enable this Government to introduce a legal entitlement to free education for disadvantaged two-year-olds. We plan to implement the new entitlement in September 2013 and will consult shortly on which children should receive free places.

We have made available £64 million this year and £223 million next year so that local authorities can increase the capacity and quality of provision locally. Funding will rise to £380 million in 2014-15. In addition, £4 million has been distributed to 18 local authorities this year to trial approaches to expanding places.

National Curriculum: Primary Schools

20. **John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress he has made on the review of the primary school national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [74438]

Mr Gibb: We have undertaken a public call for evidence, analysed the curricula of successful educational jurisdictions, and held discussions with a range of subject experts and others. We are now developing draft curriculum documents for English, mathematics, science and physical education for both primary and secondary phases. We are also considering which other subjects should be part of the national curriculum in future and at which key stages. We will consult on our proposals early next year.

University Technical Colleges

21. **Anne Marie Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many university technical colleges he expects to open in 2012. [74439]

Michael Gove: On 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 62-64, I updated the House that we now have 16 new university technical colleges approved and working towards opening. Of these, we expect up to nine may open in September 2012. Precise figures will be known shortly once the buildings they will be located in are confirmed.

Academies: Funding

22. **Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether academy schools will have the same access to capital and maintenance funds for buildings as community schools when local authorities assess their statement of priorities. [74440]

Mr Gibb: An important principle of our schools funding system is that academies should be funded no more or no less generously than maintained schools. This is a principle which runs through our consultations on reforming revenue and capital funding in the schools sector. We believe that academies and maintained schools should be given equal and fair access to capital funds.

Academies: Underperforming Schools

23. **Mr Gyimah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made on encouraging academies to work with underperforming schools. [74441]

Mr Hayes: There are currently 891 schools that have converted to become academies and these academies are supporting 1,646 weaker schools. We are determined to raise standards in our underperforming schools and are actively engaging with converter academies to encourage them to become academy sponsors.

School Milk

24. **Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to increase the take-up of school milk. [74442]

Sarah Teather: The school food standards set out the food and drink which can be provided to pupils throughout the school day. The standards allow for the provision of water, fruit juice and milk, or combinations of these, including flavoured milk. However, there is no requirement for schools to provide milk; it is for individual schools or local authorities to decide whether or not to offer school milk to their pupils.

Capital Funding

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how he plans to distribute capital funding for building projects to local education authorities. [74436]

Michael Gove: DFE capital funding will continue to be distributed in different ways. Funding for maintained schools is devolved to local authorities; additional funding is devolved directly to every school; and as I announced in July, further funding will be targeted at areas of rising pupil numbers.

Free Schools

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the level of demand for places in the first round of free schools. [74431]

Mr Gibb: The level of demand for the first 24 free schools that opened in September has been exceptionally high. Based on the information supplied by the schools, 19 of the 24 free schools were oversubscribed for their places in 2011. Early signs are that demand will be similarly high for these 24 schools next year.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which travel management companies his Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets. [72693]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development uses the Hogg Robinson Group (HRG) for the purchase of airline tickets for UK-based staff and most staff based overseas.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72707]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently contracts with the Hogg Robinson Group (HRG) to manage the purchase of airline tickets. The contract is a call-down contract from the framework competed by the Government Procurement Service (GPS), (formerly known as OGC Buying Solutions). DFID's contract with HRG requires that it searches for and offers the DFID booker the best fare available at the time of booking, including offering any discounted fares negotiated between HMG and airlines.

The DFID Travel Policy states that HRG should be used to book travel and requires travellers to book the best value for money fare. HRG provides DFID with management information to enable the Department to monitor and manage value for money and compliance to travel policy.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73107]

Mr O'Brien: Consultancy is mainly used by the Department for International Development (DFID) as a source of specialist technical advice to inform key areas of policy and processes to ensure aid funds are spent effectively. Consultancy is used only where it is deemed to be an operational necessity by DFID, and strong controls have been put in place since 1 April 2010 to ensure effective management of all consultancy-related spend.

All consultancy requirements are subject to a stringent business case process. The business case must be approved at a senior level, following review by DFID human resource and procurement specialists to ensure it represents the best value sourcing option.

Following business case approval, DFID applies the EU principles of open and fair procurement. Where the value is above the EU threshold for services, competition under the EU directives is a legal requirement (unless a suitable framework arrangement is already in place). These opportunities are advertised in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) and are also available on the DFID portal at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Work-with-us/DFID-portal

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72571]

Mr O'Brien: To provide a meaningful answer to the first part of this question relating to average hourly rates would involve a disproportionate cost.

The Department for International Development provides information on its intranet to all staff regarding the sources of legal advice available. Four primary sources of legal advice are used: The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSOL); Foreign and Commonwealth Office legal advisers (FCO Legal); Crown Agents Legal (CA Legal); and the Office of the Solicitor to the Advocate General (OSAG). Each of the four suppliers have specific areas of expertise and approval must be obtained from the relevant budget holder prior to DFID staff engaging with a supplier for the provision of legal advice.

In 2010-11 spend with the four sources of legal advice noted above was: TSOL (£52,793.64) and CA Legal (£667,057.38).

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish an organogram showing the *(a)* number and *(b)* job titles of his Department's staff in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Scotland (A) in each team and (B) at each grade. [74169]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development has 622 UK home civil servant staff based in England and 483 UK home civil servant staff based in Scotland. I have deposited in the Library a table of figures showing the number of job titles at each grade. DFID has no staff based in Wales.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [75003]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The central accounting records and financial systems of the Department for International Development do not enable analysis of spend by this category of expenditure, without incurring disproportionate cost.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73185]

Mr O'Brien: The costs of employing civil servants to undertake procurement in the Department for International Development's central procurement function are provided in the following table:

Financial year	*Total cost (£ million)*
2008-09	1.499
2009-10	1.479
2010-11	1.468

A similar trend is expected in the financial year 2011-12. However, procurement capacity is under continuous review to ensure the central procurement function has the capacity to effectively meet business requirements.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72937]

Mr O'Brien: In the period from September 2010 to August 2011 the Department for International Development (DFID) UK spent £25,900 on new furnishings. Of this figure nearly £17,000 was for office chairs.

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Heywood and Middleton of 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1265W, on developing countries: family planning, whether his Department has completed its negotiations with Marie Stopes International on a Programme Partnership Arrangement; and if he will make a statement. [74292]

Mr O'Brien: Negotiations between the Department for International Development (DFID) and Marie Stopes International (MSI) on Programme Partnership Arrangement support for the period 2011-14 have been completed. DFID is providing £4.3 million per annum to MSI, subject to performance. This will include provision of advice and support directly to 3.2 million people on family planning and a further 2.6 million people will also indirectly benefit from this work. All details are available on the DFID website.

It is a major priority for the UK to improve sexual and reproductive health rights, including access to modern family planning methods in the developing world.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73721]

Mr O'Brien: DFID's policy is not to allow any cash withdrawals by DFID staff in possession of Government Procurement Cards (GPC). All purchasing cards issued to DFID staff have the cash withdrawal facility blocked.

There were no GPC transactions by DFID staff to withdraw cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10.

Horn of Africa: Agriculture

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department is taking to improve the productivity and resilience of domestic agriculture in the Horn of Africa. [74763]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In Ethiopia, DFID's investment to the agriculture sector focuses mainly on building the capacity of the Ethiopian Government's agricultural implementing agencies. For example, DFID supports the Ethiopian Government's Household Asset Building Programme, which improves the capacity of microfinance institutions in providing access to credit for some of the poorest farmers in Ethiopia. To date, 2,300 households have benefitted. DFID investments in the Protection of Basic Services and the Productive Safety Net Programme are also building the capacity of the agricultural extension workers in crop production, livestock, and natural resource management and contribute to improving the natural resource base of smallholder farmers. Over five million smallholder farmers received this support. In addition, through DFID's humanitarian programme, 26,000 households received seeds and fertilizer, and 9,000 obtained animal health care support.

In Somalia, DFID supports the Food and Agriculture Organisation/World Bank implemented SEEDS (Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Somalia) programme, which is currently operational in Somali land and plans to expand into the severe affected areas of Puntland. SEEDS will directly lead to the creation of about 45,000 jobs, improvements in the investment climate and additional market-related investment. Due to agriculture and related trade being the mainstay of the Somali economy, almost all these jobs will be in agriculture directly or agriculture-related.

India: Overseas Aid

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent work his Department has undertaken in Orissa, India; and if he will make a statement. [73975]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's recent work in Orissa concentrates on two priorities:

improving poor people's health and nutrition through the state health sector reform programme; and

supporting disadvantaged communities to obtain public services, social entitlements and combat discrimination through our civil society support programmes.

Our health sector support has on an average prevented, 3,000 infant deaths annually since 2007 and helped 521,000 women deliver in a health facility in 2010-11. Our civil society programmes will benefit one million socially excluded people by 2015.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's projects and programmes in India include the promotion of sustainable management of natural resources; and if he will make a statement. [73976]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Between 2011 and 2015, UK development co-operation in India will focus on health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, urban development and unlocking the potential of the private sector to promote jobs and opportunities for poor people. New plans are being developed under the International Climate Fund to support programmes that promote increased resilience of the rural poor in India to climate change, including through better natural resource management and sustainable agriculture.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will assess the effects of his Department's promotion of mineral-based industries in Orissa on the agricultural economy of the state; and if he will make a statement. [73977]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The activities supported by DFID in Orissa do not include promotion of mineral-based industries. We are considering providing technical support to help Orissa diversify its industrial base, so that poor people will benefit from jobs and higher incomes. We have supported agricultural development in Orissa, including through the recently-concluded Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Programme.

India: Poverty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help strengthen the capacity of the Indian Government to develop and implement pro-poor policies; and if he will make a statement. [73974]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We have agreed with the Government of India a new approach to our development co-operation, focusing on the poorest states of India; in particular Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Our support will help these states to develop and implement pro-poor policies, and make the most effective use of resources available from the Government of India. Our support will be targeted to the poorest women and girls, to help them get quality schooling, healthcare, nutrition and jobs. We will also help unlock the potential of the private sector to deliver jobs, products, infrastructure and basic services.

Nigeria: Corruption

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support anti-corruption programmes in Nigeria. [73933]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Through a programme that started in November 2010, the UK is helping to improve the effectiveness of Nigerian anti-corruption agencies, particularly the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The programme will also support civil society to fight corruption. More broadly we are helping to improve public financial management at Federal level and in five DFID focal states.

Nigeria: Education

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in improving education provision in Nigeria through its programmes in that country. [73932]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since 2006 the UK has succeeded in increasing enrolment in six states by 35% and in getting 423,000 more girls into school in northern Nigeria, where traditionally girls have not been encouraged to go to school. Through two programmes, over 4,000 head teachers have been trained in effective school management, 4,000 school-based management committees have been trained to monitor their schools and hold schools and teachers more to account, 500 inspectors have been trained and 3,000 scholarships awarded to poor women from rural areas to attend teacher training to return as teachers in their communities.

While encouraged by this progress, the UK is not complacent in the face of the extreme education challenges in Nigeria. The UK is therefore scaling up its effort to ensure more children, particularly girls, get access to education of ever-improving quality. The UK is therefore developing plans to help a further 800,000 children, of which 600,000 will be girls, into school by 2015 and to provide 5,000 further scholarships for women teachers.

Nigeria: Overseas Aid

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to use development assistance to encourage growth and investment in Nigeria. [73931]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Bilateral Aid Review identified the importance of doing more to encourage growth and investment in Nigeria. The Prime Minister and I focused on improving trade and investment opportunities between Nigeria and the UK during our joint visit to the country in July this year. I also pushed forward this agenda on my visit in June.

Over the next four years British development assistance will be used to reduce the constraints on doing business and improve opportunities for investment. Examples include supporting reforms in the power sector, improving roads and other transport facilities, and supporting better access to financial services. British aid will help create investment opportunities in sectors which have the potential to create more jobs, such as agriculture, construction, and trade.

The Department continues to work closely with other international financial agencies, such as the World Bank and other parts of Her Majesty's Government, to encourage investment in Nigeria.

Papua: Health

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps he is taking to help *(a)* reduce malnourishment, *(b)* increase health standards and *(c)* reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in West Papua; [73539]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Government of Indonesia on investment in health and education in West Papua; and what recent discussions he has had on the allocation of international humanitarian and development aid to support the people of West Papua. [73540]

Mr O'Brien: Indonesia is one of the world's fastest growing emerging economies. In April 2011, the Department for International Development (DFID) agreed with the Government of Indonesia to focus future UK aid for Indonesia on issues related to climate change. The UK bilateral aid programme to Indonesia is planned to end in 2015.

DFID's climate change programme in Indonesia will have a particular focus on Papua, helping to reduce deforestation and promoting low carbon jobs and growth. We believe that working to reduce deforestation is the most effective way in which we can help to improve the lives of poor people in Indonesia in the long term. DFID officials meet regularly with counterparts in Papua, Jakarta and London to ensure that our programmes will deliver tangible benefits for the population of the province.

Rwanda: Human Rights

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the human rights situation in Rwanda. [73770]

Mr O'Brien: The most recent reports the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has received on the human rights situation in Rwanda were a May 2011 Human Rights Watch report (focused on the community-based gacaca courts) and the Human Rights Watch submission to the International Development Committee (also May 2011).

Respect for human rights is one of the partnership commitments related to DFID budget support. DFID and FCO continue to monitor this commitment closely and raise any concerns about democracy, human rights and good governance regularly and at the highest levels. The Secretary of State is kept up to date by the British high commission and DFID office and raised these issues directly with President Kagame during a visit to Rwanda in July.

Rwanda: Overseas Aid

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what monitoring his Department applies to the use by the Government of Rwanda of overseas aid provided by the UK. [73763]

Mr O'Brien: All aid provided by the Department for International development (DFID) has specific targets against which progress is formally monitored annually and at the conclusion of a programme. DFID officials in-country carry out frequent and detailed discussions with the Government of Rwanda about programme delivery, risks and mitigation.

Before any UK aid is provided to a Government, an independent detailed fiduciary risk appraisal (FRA) is conducted to assess the risk of funds not being used for the purposes for which they were intended. These risks are monitored and updated at least annually.

Furthermore, in Rwanda a country performance assessment framework (CPAF), agreed by donors and the Government, annually monitors progress against specific targets set out in Rwanda's Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Tax Havens

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on increasing transparency of international tax havens. [73065]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Ministers discuss G20 priorities regularly and tax transparency and tax havens are important issues in this context. The Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information, an intergovernmental body with worldwide membership, has been the main means by which G20 objectives have been delivered in this area, for example by encouraging the signing of Tax Information Exchange Agreements and conducting peer reviews of countries' implementation of international standards. The Global Forum is due to give its latest report to G20 Heads of Government at the Cannes summit in November.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73981]

Mr O'Brien: I regularly receive correspondence from civil society organisations inquiring about funding possibilities. I encourage people to refer to the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

which provides a comprehensive summary of all of DFID's funds for civil society.

DFID does not keep a record of how many such requests are received each month. To provide information on how many requests for funding DFID has received from civil society organisations each month since June 2010 would incur disproportionate costs.

West Bank: Education

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of access to education for the Bedouin population in the West Bank. [73587]

Mr Duncan: We are aware that Palestinians in the West Bank, and especially Area C, have encountered various difficulties in accessing education, including restrictions on movement and/or inability to get planning permission for schools. These problems were highlighted in the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report "West Bank Movement and Access Update", published in August.

While we have not received any reports into access to education specifically for the Bedouin population, we are aware of the risk of demolition of the school building in the village of Khan al Ahmar, which is used by children from the Jahalin Bedouin community. The UK funds the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to provide legal assistance and advice to Palestinians to help them understand and defend their housing, land and property rights. As part of this programme the NRC is providing legal representation to the village of Khan al Ahmar to prevent the demolition of the school and houses. The British embassy in Tel Aviv has also made representations to Israeli Ministers, requesting that the demolition should not proceed.

Yemen: Schools

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that schools in Yemen remain open. [73059]

Mr Duncan: We are acutely aware of the multiple problems facing Yemeni children who want to go to school. In Sana'a we know of 32 schools occupied by armed forces. The defence attaché and chargé d'affaires are actively lobbying both sides to ask them to leave and allow children to return to school. We are also monitoring the overall situation closely and remain in regular contact with UNICEF about what we can do to address this problem.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Flags

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1089W, on departmental flags, what information his Department holds on *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* other European Union institutions imposing fines described as financial corrections on Government departments for failing to fly the flag of the European Union in front of its premises for one week every year, after Europe Day; and in any such case what the (i) date, (ii) Department and (iii) amount of the fine so imposed was. [73440]

Robert Neill: My Department has always complied with the regulation and therefore has not received any financial corrections for failure to comply with Article 7(2)c of the Commission Regulation (EC) 1828/2006.

However, English European regional development fund programmes have, in the past, received corrections for projects' failure to comply with publicity regulations.

I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1147-50W, for a list of these fines.

We do not hold information on other Government Departments.

Empty Property

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department plans to publish its empty homes strategy. [73436]

Grant Shapps: We will be publishing the Government's approach to tackling empty homes later in the autumn as part of the wider housing strategy.

Empty Property: Electricity

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider requiring developers to lay telephone and electricity service ducting when building new residential and commercial properties. [73022]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government has no current plans to introduce requirements for developers to lay telephone and electricity service ducting through either the Building Regulations or National Planning Policy.

Family Intervention Projects: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding will be allocated to the family intervention programme in respect of families with multiple problems living in Scotland; [74660]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Scotland, *(b)* the Scottish Executive and *(c)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on the implementation of the family intervention programme for families suffering from multiple problems; [74661]

(3) how many families with multiple problems living in Scotland he expects to be requested to participate in a family intervention programme. [74662]

Andrew Stunell: There have been no discussions. Responsibility for dealing with families with multiple problems living in Scotland, including the allocation of any funding, has been devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Housing: Construction

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many central Government-funded loan applications were approved for self-build homes in *(a)* Brighton and Hove, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* nationally in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [74549]

Grant Shapps: The Government have not approved any loans or funding for self-build housing anywhere in England during the period 2008-10.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 913-4W, on housing: construction, what progress has been made in preparing an action plan to make it easier for people to build their own homes. [74550]

Grant Shapps: 'An Action Plan to Promote the Growth of Self Build Housing', prepared by the Government-Industry Self Build Working Group, was published on 13 July 2011. It is available at:

www.nasba.org.uk

Localism Bill

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 274, on the Localism Bill, what definition of sovereign his Department uses; [73439]

(2) what the legal basis is of his proposed democratically agreed local planning plans. [73533]

Greg Clark: The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, section 38 (6), requires that local councils' decisions on planning applications must be made in accordance with a council's development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. While the weight given to other considerations is a matter for the decision maker, the Act is clear that the primary basis for deciding planning applications is the council's local plan.

We do not propose to alter the legal basis of councils' local plans, which is that they are prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The Localism Bill proposes to abolish regional strategies, which will increase the importance and weight of councils' locals plans.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* adequacy to meet demand of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme; [73046]

(2) what plans he has to amend the *(a)* availability and *(b)* terms of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme if mortgage interest rates rise. [73047]

Grant Shapps: The Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme is designed to be an option of last resort for vulnerable homeowners who are at risk of repossession and homelessness. Over 2,600 households have completed the full process to remain in their homes since the scheme began and almost 39,000 households with mortgage difficulties have received free advice from their local authority through the scheme.

The Government reviewed the scheme in July 2010, and again in February 2011, and made changes to improve the value for money by reducing unit costs to ensure that the scheme can help as many households as possible. The scheme will be kept under review to ensure it continues to provide value for money.

The spending review confirmed over £220 million funding for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme from April 2011 to deliver a two-year scheme to provide ongoing support to households facing repossession. The scheme is delivered by local authorities in partnership with registered social landlords and the Homes and Communities Agency. It is for local authorities to prioritise those households who are most appropriate for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme.

Planning Permission: Fraud

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sanctions may be imposed on persons who have made false statements or provided false evidence in a planning application. [73703]

Robert Neill: The planning application process relies on people acting in good faith. There is an expectation that applicants and those representing them provide decision makers with true and accurate information upon which to base their decisions. However, under section 65(6) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, it is an offence to issue a false ownership certificate knowingly or recklessly.

If a local planning authority feels that an application does not accurately or fully describe the proposed development, or that it is in any way misleading, it is entitled to ask the applicant to amend it or rectify any omissions before it agrees to process the application.

Planning applications are publicised during the determination period so that any interested parties have the opportunity to comment. If any party considers that the application includes deliberately misleading information, or lacks important information that would be material to the decision, they should report this to the relevant local authority, which will decide what action is appropriate. Planning permission can be refused on the grounds that information provided was insufficient to accurately describe the nature and anticipated impacts of the proposed development.

Regeneration: Finance

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce allocations of transition funding for locally-led regeneration. [75211]

Grant Shapps: I expect to announce the outcome shortly.

Social Security Benefits

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward proposals to means-test benefit claims for people who are subject to section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 and living in residential care. [73048]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has no plans to introduce means-testing for services provided under section 117 of the Mental Health Act. After-care under section 117 is only provided for a person's mental disorder. Where a person who is entitled to after-care under section 117 lives in residential care for reasons other than their mental disorder (for example, for reasons of physical disability) their entitlement to financial support from the local authority would be calculated in the same way as everyone else's.

Vacant Land

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the development on *(a)* greenfield and *(b)* green belt land. [72976]

Greg Clark: The draft National Planning Policy Framework, currently undergoing public consultation, sets out our proposals for planning policy including the protection of greenfield and green belt land. The Framework maintains robust green belt protection. To preserve the natural environment, it states that local plans should seek to allocate land for development with the least environmental or amenity value, and should plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. A copy of the Framework is in the Library of the House.

The abolition of Regional Strategies through the Localism Bill will remove 'top down' pressure to weaken green belt protection in 30 towns and cities. Our revision to planning guidance on Traveller sites, currently in draft, proposes to strengthen protection of the green belt and open countryside.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Athletics

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress has been made on London's bid to host the 2017 World Athletics Championships; and if he will make a statement. [73175]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Minister for Sport and the Olympics, my hon. Friend the Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson), recently attended the visit of the IAAF Evaluation Team to London last week, at which he confirmed Government support for the event and the retention of a running track at the Olympic Stadium. The Evaluation Team stated they were

> "very pleased and impressed with what we have seen here in London",

and that it was

> "very heartening to see that the commitment of our IAAF Member Federation to hosting the 2017 World Championships is fully supported by the British Government and the City of London".

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support his Department has provided in support of London's bid to host the 2017 World Athletics Championships. [73176]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The financial support for the bid to host the 2017 World Athletics Championships has been provided by UK Sport, UK Athletics and the Greater London Authority.

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics, my hon. Friend the Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson), recently attended the visit of the IAAF Evaluation Team to London. The Minister and officials in my Department are involved in developing the bid and will continue to support it in the build-up to the decision on 11 November 2011.

Broadband

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the allocation of funds for an urban superfast broadband pilot in the UK. [73479]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has discussed with the

Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), a range of ways to help to ensure that broadband provision in UK rural and urban areas is world-class, in accordance with the Government's aim of having the best broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with HM Treasury on the allocation of the unallocated Broadband Delivery UK funds. [73481]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has regular discussions with HM Treasury on Broadband Delivery UK's funding to ensure efficient and effective delivery.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74990]

John Penrose: The average cost to this Department of processing the payment of an invoice for the period was £10.07. The proportion paid electronically (including by procurement card) was 99.16%, and by cheque was 0.84%. These figures are based on costs and volumes from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74366]

John Penrose: The Department has no current building or refurbishment projects planned for 2011-12 or 2012-13.

Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many transport-related fines his Department and its predecessors have settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2007; and at what cost. [74369]

John Penrose: The Department has not settled any transport-related fines on behalf of its staff in the period from 2007 onward.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [74996]

John Penrose: This Department spent £25,432.06 on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73194]

John Penrose: The following table shows the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement work in the Department, (i) in each of the last three financial years and (ii) the current financial year to date:

	£
2008-09	156,988.75
2009-10	164,577.25
2010-11[1]	181,938
2011-12	88,563

[1] The increase in cost for 2010-11 was due to an additional staff resource, annual pay awards and an increase in statutory contributions.

The Department incurred no cost engaging consultants to undertake procurement in 2011-12.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75125]

John Penrose: This Department has advertised five contracts on the Contracts Finder website, since it launched in January 2011:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/

In March 2011, £24,725 was awarded, but not to a third sector organisation or small business.

In April 2011, a contract was awarded to a third sector organisation, but has not yet been valued as it will be based on commission.

In May 2011, £34,680 was awarded to a small and medium enterprise (SME).

This month, two contracts have been advertised but not yet awarded. Both are open to SMEs to apply.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75010]

John Penrose: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Grade	*Average working days lost*
D	16.1
C	8.3
B	4.2

Grade	Average working days lost
A	1.8
A(U)	2.1
SCS	1.7
Departmental average	4.8

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74368]

John Penrose: Staff at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport attended 87 external courses in the last 12 months at a total cost of £113,211. We are unable to provide costing for each course without incurring disproportionate costs.

Film Industry: Tax Credit

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent under the Film Tax Credit scheme in each year since 2008. [74036]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not keep the relevant details as the operation of the scheme is administered by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC does publish annual statistics on the relief given which can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/films/ftr-monitoring-summary-aug2010.pdf

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has allocated to the film tax credit scheme in each year from 2008 to 2013. [74189]

Mr Vaizey: DCMS does not allocate any budget to the film tax relief scheme. It is a tax relief dependent on the UK spend of film production companies.

Horse Racing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, pursuant to the oral answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 327, on race course pitch tenures, when his Department next plans to review the progress of negotiations on an agreement; and if he will make a statement. [74621]

John Penrose: My officials are in close and regular contact with the Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Ltd (FRB) and the Racecourse Association (RCA) over the discussions on race course pitch tenures. I receive regular updates on the discussions between the two groups and, while progress is slow, it is being made. I would strongly encourage both sides to conclude the outstanding issues and reach agreements as soon as possible.

Mobile Phones

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport by what date he expects 4G mobile services to be deployed in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other EU countries; and what assessment he has made of the potential effects on economic growth of the timing of such deployment. [74534]

Mr Vaizey: We expect the deployment of 4G mobile services to begin in 2013 in the UK. Across the rest of the EU, four countries (Finland, Norway, Sweden and Germany) have started deployments of commercial 4G networks. A number of others have completed national spectrum licensing processes but have not yet started to deploy networks, and others, including the UK, are intending to undertake licensing exercises during 2012.

We have not made any assessment of the effects of deployment timing on economic growth.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings he has had in the last 12 months on the convergence and regeneration legacy of the London 2012 Olympics. [73516]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have met the Mayor and representatives of the Olympic Park Legacy Company to discuss the future of the Park, including the legacy. The Mayor takes leadership of the East London Legacy Board, which draws together Government Departments, principally the Department for Communities and Local Government, local authorities and other key agencies involved in east London renewal, to explore more efficient and smarter ways to deliver improved services, and develop new strategic approaches to poor health and fitness. I am aware of the significant effort and contribution the six host boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest are making themselves, and the arrangements they have made in establishing a Host Borough Unit to work together to make the most of the significant investment in the Park.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of his Department's contribution to achieving convergence in the London boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest; and if he will make a statement. [73517]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Convergence is an aim which reflects long-term shared ambitions across all levels of Government to secure regeneration of the area that improves conditions for local people. A wide range of regeneration initiatives have been targeted historically on east London, of which the Olympics is the latest and perhaps most striking example. It is too early in what is a very long term process to assess our contribution, but I am confident that we are focusing on areas where we can add most value.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated to achieve *(a)* Olympic legacy goals overall and *(b)* the regeneration legacy in the host boroughs in the next three years. [73518]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As set out in the Department's Legacy Plan, published in December 2010, the Government are committed to securing a lasting legacy from the Games, which includes ensuring that the Olympic Park can be developed as one of the principal drivers of regeneration in East London. The main departmental priorities and areas of spending are set out as follows, which are part of a wider commitment by Government to make the most of the Games.

We will be delivering a sporting legacy for young people, and bringing back a culture of competitive sport in schools. Sport England is investing up to £35.5 million of lottery funding from now until March 2015 in the School Games, which is a key part of the Government's plans for a lasting sporting legacy. In addition, DCMS Exchequer funding of £2 million will be provided in 2011-12. We have also allocated £135 million of lottery funding towards Places, People, Play—the London 2012 mass participation legacy programme.

We are also committed to ensuring that we deliver a lasting tourism legacy. The Prime Minister recently announced the launch of the GREAT campaign, which is designed to promote the UK abroad, and aims to deliver long-term economic benefits from the unprecedented level of interest generated by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The campaign aims to generate at least £1 billion in Olympic business boost and attract 4 million extra visitors. In addition, over the next four years VisitBritain will be running the "You're Invited" programme, which will capitalise on the international interest in the recent Royal Wedding, as well as next year's Diamond Jubilee and Olympic and Paralympic Games, and showcase Britain to the world. The programme is backed by a £100 million marketing fund, funded by the public and private sector.

Olympic venues and investment in training facilities will support local communities after the Games. We are preserving Whole Sport Plans and holding sports to account on meeting challenging participation targets.

75p of every pound the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is spending on the venues and infrastructure construction programme for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is an investment in long-term regeneration. Therefore a considerable physical legacy from the Games has already been largely delivered in the host boroughs. The Anticipated Final Cost (AFC) of the ODA programme, including risks, scope changes and inflation is currently £7.25 billion.

The job of transforming Olympic Park venues and infrastructure for legacy use after the Games has been passed from the ODA to the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC).

With regard to the Cultural Olympiad, we have contributed £661,000 to part-fund a network of Creative Programmers in the English Regions, and £3.06 million to help ensure the success of the London 2012 Festival—the finale of the Cultural Olympiad taking place from 21 June to 9 September 2012. The funding is for a small number of additional events that will be managed by LOCOC. The details of the events are being finalised, and will be announced this autumn.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what projects and events in *(a)* Brighton Kemptown constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* the South East have been awarded the inspire mark. [73800]

Hugh Robertson: Over 1,700 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire mark. In the South East 156 projects have been awarded Inspire marks to date.

In the Brighton and East Sussex area there are six Inspire marked projects including Scanning for Gold a commission of the Universities of Brighton and Sussex Creative Campus Initiative. It will work with six university athletes, all training for London 2012, at the Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre, profiling them in action with professional photography. The result will be a photographic gallery exhibition that will be featured in arts, sports and medical venues in Sussex. Also, Gold Run is a project to support learning-disabled and marginalised artists in the creation of an ambitious multi-genre performance. The performance will comprise three elements: film, music and visual art. The finished piece will be performed at Glyndebourne, the Brighton Corn Exchange and at the Chichester Festival Theatre. Other projects include 'Oh We Do like to be beside the Seaside', the Emergence of Consciousness, Creative Landscapes and a project run by the university of Brighton and Sussex.

In the Brighton area there are also a number of projects linked to Festival 2012 and the Games. At Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, work is under way to create an innovative new World Stories gallery, opening 21 June 2012 as part of London 2012 Festival. The gallery will display Brighton Museum's collections from Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Pacific alongside contemporary art and artefacts.

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage a sustainable equestrian legacy following the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. [75269]

Hugh Robertson: Greenwich was chosen as the venue for the Equestrian events for the London 2012 games with the support of the International Equestrian Federation and the British Equestrian Federation (BEF). Staging the events in Greenwich Park ensures a compact games, increases exposure and stimulates interest in equestrian sports with new audiences locally and across the UK. The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) staged the equestrian test event in July attended by 5,000 local people, including over 3,500 from local schools and colleges—the vast majority of whom attended an equestrian event for the first time.

Sport England is providing £4.2 million of funding to the BEF between 2009 and 2013 to increase access to equestrian sports under its Whole Sports Plan as part of the 2012 legacy.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he expects redevelopment of the Olympic stadium to be complete before the commencement of the first lease in 2014. [74673]

Hugh Robertson: We anticipate the Olympic stadium will be converted ahead of the first tenants taking occupation.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that demand to occupy the Olympic stadium extends beyond the first letting period. [74674]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) will be commencing a process shortly to identify prospective tenants for the Olympic stadium and, as part of that process, will determine the appropriate letting periods.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the decision to retain the Olympic stadium in public ownership on the stability of the 25 year regeneration plan for the East End of London. [74675]

Hugh Robertson: Ensuring there is a sustainable, long-term legacy for the Olympic stadium remains an integral part of the plans for regenerating the park and its surroundings. Retaining the stadium in public ownership will not depart from this ambition.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he expects decisions to have been made on the future *(a)* ownership and *(b)* occupation of the Olympic stadium before the London 2012 Olympics commence. [74676]

Hugh Robertson: Ownership of the Olympic stadium will remain, as now, with the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC). It also remains the intention that OPLC will have completed negotiations with prospective tenants for the stadium before the commencement of the 2012 games.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement; [74776]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74833]

John Penrose: The Department fully supports the idea of a "right to provide" for public service workers and believes that mutualisation can be a powerful tool for improving the quality of services. We are working closely with the Cabinet Office on this agenda and will give detailed consideration to any employee applications to run services for which the Department is directly responsible.

Radio Frequencies

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to take account of the dates for the release of 800 MHz and 2600 MHz spectrum in the Best in Europe scorecard developed by Broadband Delivery UK. [74535]

Mr Vaizey: The Best in Europe scorecard will take into account a range of factors, including mobile data coverage, in measuring how to get the best superfast broadband network in Europe.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons community radio stations operating on an FM frequency are not able to make community radio licence applications for the north-west in 2012-13. [74707]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom has begun a third round of community radio licensing and expects to invite applications from the north-west during the first half of 2013. However, there are some areas of the north-west where Ofcom will be unable to invite applications for FM licences due to a lack of available frequencies. Ofcom will consider at the time applications are invited whether capacity on MW might be available in some of the areas.

S4C

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on S4C's independence of having BBC employees on its management team. [74006]

Mr Vaizey: The S4C-BBC partnership arrangements will ensure a strong, sustainable future for S4C and Welsh language broadcasting. S4C, the BBC and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are currently in discussion about the details of how the partnership arrangements will work.

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he intends to hold a public consultation on any future proposals to change the governance arrangements for S4C. [74007]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to consulting interested parties on S4C's new governance arrangements before they are implemented.

Television: Advertising

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the advertisement of abortion services on television channels. [74222]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has received 232 representations on the advertisement of post-conception advice services on television over the course of the last six months (since 1 April 2011).

Television: Local Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to remove barriers to market entry experienced by local television producers. [74221]

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to ensure sufficient locally generated television content in programming in England. [74180]

Mr Vaizey: The steps the Government plan to take are set out in the two recent publications released by the Department: The new framework for local TV in the UK and the Local TV Pioneer locations document.

The Government expect to publish their response and confirm the proposals in the near future. This will include the steps the Government propose to take to address market barriers for local TV, including reservation of local spectrum, electronic programme guide prominence and a fit-for-purpose regulatory regime.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73986]

John Penrose: We have received 1,441 pieces of correspondence relating to funding since 1 June 2010. Some of these letters concern funding for civil sector organisations but also funding for areas such as community clubs, sports, arts and leisure projects and libraries. We are unable to determine the number of letters that are solely related to civil sector organisations, as we do not record the information in this way.

A breakdown by month can be found in the following table:

Date	*Volume*
2010	
June	75
July	104
August	77
September	96
October	140
November	121
December	81
2011	
January	84
February	60
March	95
April	94
May	97
June	83
July	80
August	62
September11	61
October 11	31

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much it expects to provide in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74834]

John Penrose: The Department provides direct funding to its arm's length bodies through grant in aid. It also provides funding, specific grants, strategic commissioning and the procurement of services to a range of bodies. However, it does not record the status of the bodies that it makes payments to, and identifying those which class themselves as civil society organisations could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Tourism

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment the Government have made of the effect on levels of inbound tourism of the cost of a visa to visit the UK compared to the cost of a visa to visit a country in the Schengen zone. [74037]

John Penrose: The cost of a visit visa for the UK is significantly below the cost of processing an application. These costs are associated with securing the border and the Home Office only recover just over half of those. The fee charged helps to support the investment we make to ensure visas are issued safely, securely and quickly. Very few people choose their holiday purely on the basis of the cost of a visa, but rather on whether the overall cost of the trip (including much bigger items such as travel or accommodation) represents good overall value. That is why econometric analysis of available data undertaken by the Home Office has indicated that visa fee levels have a minimal impact on application volumes. None the less it would be wrong to ignore the issue, which is why the Government's Tourism Policy (published in March) aims to improve productivity across the entire visitor economy and, of course, the cost and convenience of visas are part of this.

As a result, improving the pre-entry visa experience is a key part of the Government's new Tourism Policy. I am working closely with the Home Office and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to look at simplifying and improving the process of arranging a visa. For example, from the end of this year, the UKBA is moving to online visa processing and has already published visa application guidance in five key foreign languages.

Tourism: Finance

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether *(a)* VisitBritain, *(b)* VisitEngland, *(c)* VisitScotland and *(d)* VisitWales has been allocated any additional budget for front-line marketing to develop the tourism potential of (i) the London 2012 Olympics and (ii) the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth games. [75051]

John Penrose: We are making available up to £4 million from the public sector funding package for the Olympic and Paralympic games to support a domestic tourism campaign to maximise the economic benefits from the Torch Relay and the Cultural Olympiad. This is an investment in a key objective of the Olympic programme: to ensure that the benefits from the games are felt throughout the UK. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has invited the devolved nations to participate in this campaign, which has been discussed with ministerial colleagues. VisitEngland are working with the tourist boards of the devolved nations to take this forward.

VisitBritain have already launched a four-year international marketing campaign ("You're Invited"), aimed at core and emerging markets, based on investment of almost £50 million from their funds, and matched by equivalent support from the private sector. This will cover the period of not only the Olympic and Paralympic games, but also other significant sporting events such as the Commonwealth games and Rugby League World cup too.

We are also examining options for a complementary tourism marketing effort, supporting the Prime Minister's "GREAT" initiative, to promote Britain abroad. Allocations for this have not been finalised yet.

DEFENCE

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the preferred bidder for the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme will be announced. [74113]

Peter Luff: An announcement concerning the main investment decision for the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme will be made shortly.

Astute Class Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* completion date and *(b)* cost to the public purse of the Valiant Jetty programme. [74128]

Peter Luff: The latest forecast completion date for the Valiant Jetty project is September 2012, which puts the in-service date out to December 2012. This is nearly four years after the contracted completion date of October 2008.

The current contractual maximum price of the project is £134 million. However, the contractor, AMEC, is forecasting an out-turn of around £92 million over this figure. Under the terms of the contract AMEC is responsible for the first £50 million of this cost overrun. The Ministry of Defence may be liable for a proportion of any cost overrun beyond £50 million over the maximum price, but only insofar as AMEC is able to show that the additional costs in question have been reasonably and properly incurred.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74323]

Peter Luff: The percentage of UK supplier invoices paid by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) within 10 working days for July 2010 was 98.9%, and for August 2010 was 98.7%. These invoices were for UK suppliers only. Information for overseas suppliers is not held in the format requested.

The MOD now reports the percentage of invoices paid within five working days. The requirement for the Department to report the percentage of invoices paid within 10 working days was changed in May 2010. The percentage of UK supplier invoices paid within five working days for July 2010 was 95.7% and for August was 96.8%.

The monthly MOD prompt payment statistics can be found on the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/FinanceandProcurement/FMSSC/MinistryOfDefencePaymentPerformance.htm

European Fighter Aircraft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts in (i) HM Treasury and (ii) the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a slow down in orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter; and when such discussions took place; [73795]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with BAE Systems on a slow down in orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter; and when such discussions took place; [73796]

(3) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his have had with their counterparts from partner core nations on a slow down in tranche 3A of the Eurofighter; and when such discussions took place; [73797]

(4) whether his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated any impact assessment on the potential effects on (i) levels of employment and (ii) the economy of a slow down in orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter; and when any such assessment was made; [73798]

(5) when the meeting took place which decided to slow down production of tranche 3A of the Eurofighter; and who represented his Department at that meeting. [73799]

Peter Luff: A proposal was made in May 2010 by the Eurofighter GmbH consortium to slow down rate of production of Typhoon Tranche 3A aircraft for all four partner nations. The Typhoon partner nations agreed to this proposal in July 2011.

The agreement on production slowdown aims to protect the industrial capacity of the Eurofighter partner companies to service export orders for Typhoon while meeting the requirements of the partner nations. The

UK Government are fully committed to the Typhoon programme and potential exports, and recognise the wider benefits that these bring to the UK economy in revenue and jobs for both the short and long term.

The proposal was agreed by Ministers and by officials, both within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and with our Typhoon international partners. Officials from UK Trade and Investment's Defence and Security Organisation provided some input to the issue, but were not involved in this decision as it falls within the MOD's delegated authority. HM Treasury was also not involved in this decision for the same reason. The Eurofighter partner companies, which include BAE Systems, were instrumental in negotiating acceptable arrangements with the partner nations from the outset.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the final downselection in the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability tanker contract to occur; [74131]

(2) what the total cost to the public purse is of the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability tanker contract; [74275]

(3) on what date he expects the *(a)* first and *(b)* last Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability tankers to be delivered to the Royal Navy. [74276]

Peter Luff: Final bids have been requested from the bidders in the ongoing international competition for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) tanker contract. We anticipate announcing the winning bidder early next year.

I am withholding information on the cost of the contract and the planned delivery schedule as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Military Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the purchase cost was of the Sentinel R1; and if he will make a statement. [73699]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my noble Friend, Lord Astor of Hever, to the noble Lord, Lord Moonie in the other place, on 18 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA219-220.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which aircraft have been identified as potential replacements for the Sentinel R1; and if he will make a statement. [73700]

Peter Luff: There is currently no plan to replace the Sentinel R1. The withdrawal of this capability will be mitigated by utilising a number of other platforms and assets, including unmanned air systems such as Watchkeeper.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Sentinel R1 to be retired from service; and if he will make a statement. [73701]

Peter Luff: As announced in the strategic defence and security review, our current plan is to withdraw the Sentinel system from service when it is no longer required to support operations in Afghanistan.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* retaining, *(b)* upgrading and *(c)* replacing the Sentinel R1; and if he will make a statement. [73702]

Peter Luff: As announced in the strategic defence and security review, our current plan is to withdraw the Sentinel system from service when it is no longer required to support operations in Afghanistan. There are, therefore, no estimates of the cost to retain, upgrade or replace the platform.

Military Bases

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value was of contracts awarded to local firms by *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Redford and *(c)* Dreghorn Barracks in each of the last five years. [73352]

Peter Luff: This information is not held in the format requested.

Scout Specialist Vehicle

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what obligations his Department has placed on General Dynamics to manufacture and assemble the Scout Specialist Vehicle in the UK. [72961]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has placed no contractual obligations on General Dynamics UK (GDUK) to manufacture the Scout Specialist Vehicles (Scout SV) platforms in the UK. GDUK has, however, indicated that a significant proportion of the activity may be conducted in the UK.

In addition, the contract allows for the transfer of the assembly integration and test work on the platforms from off-shore facilities to the Defence Support Group in the UK. A value-for-money decision on whether to transfer this work will be taken later in the programme, closer to production. An enabling arrangement for industrial participation has also been put in place with General Dynamics that will see work being carried out in the UK, or assistance being provided to UK exporters to Spain (assembly of ASCOD, the base vehicle for Scout SV is currently conducted in Spain).

Victims of Crime

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of adopting in its present form the proposed EU directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime on matters for which his Department is responsible; and whether his Department was consulted on the decision to opt in to that proposed directive. [73430]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) was involved in the Government's consideration of whether the UK should opt in to the proposed EU victims directive and made an assessment of the likely effects.

While in many respects a number of the requirements of the directive are consistent with the MOD's existing non-statutory Service code of practice (Joint Service Publication 839), there were found to be a number of provisions where the intended effect was unclear, and where it was assessed there was potential negative impact on the Service Justice System. These included the areas of:

Application of the directive outside the EU
Application outside the UK but inside the EU
Directly enforceable rights.

These points have accordingly been reflected in the UK negotiating mandate for the directive.

PRIME MINISTER

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* his special advisers use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73204]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Environment Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to attend the Global Green Growth Forum in Denmark. [74885]

The Prime Minister: Officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change attended the Global Green Growth Forum on 11 October.

Hillsborough Disaster

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues since his appointment on the unredacted release of the Hillsborough cabinet minutes; [74301]

(2) when he last discussed with the Deputy Prime Minister the release of unredacted Government files relating to the 1989 Hillsborough disaster. [74767]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 506W. I have regular discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and others on a range of subjects.

Special Advisers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the pay band is of the special adviser in his Office for liaison between 10 Downing street and the Scotland Office; [74279]

(2) what the pay band is of the civil servant in 10 Downing street who is to manage Scottish matters at an official level; [74280]

(3) whether he has appointed any other special advisers or civil servants to advise or assist 10 Downing street on Scottish matters since September 2011; and at what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other set up or relocation cost. [74281]

The Prime Minister: An updated list of special advisers, and their pay bands, is published quarterly. Information about the pay bands of civil servants working in the Cabinet Office can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/structure-charts-cabinet-office

Taxation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* others on the introduction of a tax to discourage people from eating fattening foods and drinks. [73803]

The Prime Minister: I have discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a range of subjects.

Visits Abroad

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which human rights cases he raised with his Russian counterpart during his recent visit to the Russian Federation; [73283]

(2) what discussions he had on freedom of expression online and in print during his recent visit to the Russian Federation; [73284]

(3) which *(a)* business people and *(b)* special advisers accompanied him on his recent visit to the Russian Federation; [73285]

(4) what discussions he had on cyber security during his recent visit to the Russian Federation. [73286]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the articles on the No. 10 website about my visit to Russia:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-visits-russia-to-boost-trade/

and to the answer I gave on 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1027.

During my visit I had a meeting with a number of Russian human rights activists. We discussed a broad range of issues, including the importance of debate online and in print.

There was no substantive discussion on the issue of cyber security during my visit. However, we continue to engage with Russia on this subject in the run-up to the London Conference on Cyberspace in November, most recently through an expert level visit to Moscow in September.

As set out in the Ministerial Code, details of my overseas travel will be published at least quarterly. I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a list of the business delegates who accompanied me.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Badgers

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received from the scientific community on her plans to pilot the free shooting of badgers. [73894]

Mr Paice: We have received a large number of representations, including from members of the scientific community. DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Bob Watson, has also discussed the evidence with a group of leading scientists, who were able to agree on a number of key points. Their conclusions have been published on the DEFRA website.

Biofuels: Timber

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of wood combusted at each biomass generating plant was *(a)* virgin and *(b)* waste wood in the last year for which figures are available. [73876]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

Figures are not currently available on a per-plant basis. Based on returns submitted to Ofgem for the renewables obligation period April 2010 to March 2011, a total of 1,818,326 metric tonnes of wood were reported to be combusted, of which 28% comprised waste wood and 72% virgin material in biomass generating plant comprising co-firing, dedicated biomass and dedicated biomass with CHP. The following table provides a breakdown by generating type.

Metric tonnes

	Waste wood	*Virgin wood*
Co-firing	59,383	813,487
Dedicated biomass	156,282	326,236
Dedicated biomass plus CHP	296,816	166,122

Bovine Tuberculosis

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to her Department was of measures to combat bovine TB in cattle in each of the last 10 years. [69409]

Mr Paice: The following table shows the costs of combating bovine TB over the last 10 years[1].

Year[2]	*Costs (£ million)*[3]
2010-11	126.9
2009-10	131.6
2008-09	108.4
2007-08	82
2006-07	81.4
2005-06	100.1
2004-05	90.2
2003-04	88.9
2002-03	65.8
2001-02	27.3

[1] Data have been extracted from DEFRA's financial records system.

[2] Expenditure figures from 2009-10 onwards have been calculated on a different basis to previous years as a result of the full absorption of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) costs including Estates, IT, Travel and Subsistence, Shared Services and overheads.

[3] Expenditure figures include: cattle testing, other surveillance activity, cattle compensation (England only), and Research and Development.

TB is a serious animal health problem. Tens of thousands of cattle are slaughtered every year. It can be devastating for affected farmers. The cost to the taxpayer is huge—it is set to exceed £1 billion over the next 10 years in England alone. That is why this Government are committed to ensuring we have a comprehensive and balanced package of measures to tackle TB, with eradication as our ultimate long-term goal.

Carbon Emissions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the *(a)* level and *(b)* sources of black carbon emissions in the UK. [72303]

Mr Paice: The Department measures black carbon concentrations in air at a number of locations across the UK and data are made publically available through the UK Air Information resource:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/

Measurements are available for 2009 and 2010 and no clear trend has yet emerged. Annual average concentrations in 2010 ranged from 0.5 microgrames/m^3 at Harwell in Oxfordshire, a rural site, to 8.8 microgrames/m^3 at the Marylebone Road in central London, a roadside site.

UK specific inventories for the sources of black carbon are not produced by DEFRA at present. However, analysis carried out by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) estimates that in 2005 the major source categories making up 93% of UK black carbon emissions were: diesel vehicles for both on and off-road use (77%); flaring of oil and gas industry wastes (6.8%); domestic solid fuel burning (6.4%); and barbeque use (2.1%). As a result of existing measures to reduce emissions of particulate matter from these sectors, IIASA estimates that UK emissions will reduce significantly between 2005 and 2020, from 29.1 kilo tonnes to 8.3 kilo tonnes.

Chemicals

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has considered the merits of regulating the use of flame-retardant chemicals. [72355]

Mr Paice: The control and use of all chemicals in the EU, including flame retardants, is regulated by the EU REACH (registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals) regulation. There are many different flame retardant chemicals with varying properties, hazard profiles, uses and modes of exposure. For this reason, it is appropriate to take a risk-based approach to regulation for each chemical and, where there is evidence of particular risk, to consider controls to minimise those risks to human health and the environment.

Coastal Areas: Access

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with Natural England on the implementation of the coastal access provisions under Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 beyond the initial coastal stretches set out by Natural England in March 2011. [73893]

Richard Benyon: We will introduce the new right of coastal access on a stretch of the English coast at Weymouth in time for the start of the Olympic games. Natural England is also working on proposals to implement coastal access in a further five areas around the coast.

We are reviewing the costs and lessons learnt from the current implementation with Natural England so we can ensure that coastal access is delivered as cost effectively as possible.

Fish Discards

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made on reform of fisheries policy to reduce fish discards; and if she will make a statement. [73896]

Richard Benyon: Reform of the common fisheries policy must tackle discards; I therefore support the EU Commission in its ambition to eliminate discards. We need a flexible framework that enables fishermen to minimise discards in ways that suit different fisheries. I will continue to argue for change drawing on the work in the UK with the fishing industry, for example our trials of catch quotas and use of more selective fishing gear.

Food Labelling

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on food labelling legislation. [73890]

Mr Paice: Improving food labels is a priority for the coalition. I am pleased that the EU Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers was agreed on 29 September. We successfully negotiated mandatory origin labelling for fresh meat and a commitment to extend origin labelling to other foods, if practical. This is a significant step forward in the provision of better labelling for consumers.

Inland Waterways

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure the future prosperity of inland waterways; and if she will make a statement. [73892]

Richard Benyon: In April 2012 and subject to parliamentary approval, we plan to move British Waterways in England and Wales to civil society. The new Canal and River Trust will be endowed with a valuable property portfolio, and supported by a long-term Government funding agreement. As a charity, it will generate new commercial and charitable income, ensuring the sustainability of the waterways into the future.

Livestock: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to prevent attacks on horses and other livestock. [74219]

Mr Paice: There are already laws in place that make it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal. It is also an offence to allow a dog to attack livestock. If anyone has any information about such incidents they should report the matter to the police.

Mobile Spectrum: Auction

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential effects on rural communities of the timetable for the auction of mobile spectrum. [73891]

Richard Benyon: Ofcom has announced that it expects the 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz auction will take place in the last quarter of 2012.

The timing is entirely a matter for Ofcom, but we share its view that this new timetable is unlikely to have a significant impact on the availability of services to consumers in rural areas, as the spectrum will not be available for its new use until 2013.

National Planning Policy Framework

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. [71885]

Richard Benyon: One official led DEFRA's engagement with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the draft National Planning Policy Framework, consulting a wide range of colleagues as necessary.

Retailing Sustainable Local Produce

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to promote the use of sustainable local produce by retailers. [73895]

Mr Paice: This Government are determined to support British food and farming. I strongly agree that retailers and the catering industry should give people the opportunity to buy food that is from their local area. To do this we need to provide consumers with honest information on the provenance of the food they buy. This is why clearer origin labelling is a key commitment in the Government's programme.

Wildlife: Medicine

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements there are on veterinary practices to provide to the customer information on the prices of widely used veterinary medicines. [74153]

Mr Paice: The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' guide to professional conduct requires veterinary surgeons and practices to inform clients of the price of veterinary medicines when requested.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the Government of Afghanistan to protect women's rights to *(a)* employment, *(b)* education, *(c)* freedom of movement, *(d)* political participation and *(e)* political representation. [73865]

Alistair Burt: We continue to work closely with the Afghan Government, Afghan civil society organisations, international partners and organisations to improve the status of women in Afghanistan, so they can play as full a part as possible in a future, peaceful Afghanistan.

We provide support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Justice's Human Rights Support Unit. Both institutions are vital for the progress of women's rights in Afghanistan. In addition, UK aid is creating opportunities for economic growth and social well-being, for example by supporting women's technical and vocational education and training.

Afghanistan: Human Rights

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Afghanistan on the human rights of women in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [75101]

Alistair Burt: Embassy officials in Kabul continue to press the Afghan Government to implement their national and international human rights commitments, including the elimination of violence against women law and the UN convention of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. We have made clear that any political settlement should be inclusive and address the concerns of all Afghan citizens.

We continue to provide support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Justice's Human Rights Support Unit. Both institutions are vital for the progress of women's rights in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Pakistan

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason his Department did not produce a long-term soft power strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan in May 2011 as previously planned; and when he expects such a strategy to be published. [73289]

Mr Hague: A long-term soft power strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan was developed during the first half of 2011 and was finalised in August 2011. To protect the Government's ability to promote these interests overseas, we do not intend to publish this detailed strategy.

Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the adoption of benchmarks on *(a)* school attendance by girls, *(b)* women's access to health care, *(c)* maternal mortality and infant health and *(d)* operation by aid workers, civil society activists and women's human rights campaigners in areas under the control of the respective parties arising from reconciliation talks with insurgent groups. [73136]

Alistair Burt: We have made it clear that any political settlement should be inclusive and address the concerns of all Afghan citizens. We welcome the work of the Government of Afghanistan to take forward a political process of reconciliation and reintegration for Afghans who meet its end-state conditions of renouncing violence, breaking ties with al-Qaeda and abiding by the Afghan constitution, including its protection for all Afghan women and men.

We continue to follow developments on this situation closely.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations his Department has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the adoption of benchmarks in respect of the joint implementation of human rights obligations arising from reconciliation talks with insurgent groups; [73137]

(2) what representations his Department has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the human rights obligations of parties involved in reconciliation talks with insurgent groups. [73138]

Alistair Burt: We have made it clear that any political settlement should be inclusive and address the concerns of all Afghan citizens. We welcome the work of the Government of Afghanistan to take forward a political process of reconciliation and reintegration for Afghans who meet its end-state conditions of renouncing violence, breaking ties with al-Qaeda and abiding by the Afghan Constitution, including its protection for all Afghan men and women.

We continue to remind the Afghan Government to uphold its commitments to protect the human rights of all Afghans.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to UN Security Council Resolution 1325, what representations his Department has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the involvement of women in the planning of and participation in any reconciliation talks with the Taliban and other insurgent groups. [73139]

Alistair Burt: The UK National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 includes a country action plan for Afghanistan. Our activities in the plan include support to the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP) to build awareness of the APRP and the peace process among women; build the capacity of women involved in the peace process; and increase women's participation in the APRP. In addition, there are nine female members of the High Peace Council, who sit on all the committees.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the involvement of civic society, including minorities, women and the business community in any reconciliation talks with the Taliban and other insurgent groups. [73140]

Alistair Burt: We have made it clear that any political settlement should be inclusive and address the concerns of all Afghan citizens. We welcome the work of the Government of Afghanistan to take forward a political process of reconciliation and reintegration for Afghans who meet its end-state conditions of renouncing violence, breaking ties with al-Qaeda and abiding by the Afghan constitution, including its protection for all Afghan women and men. The High Peace Council includes representatives of all the major ethnic groups, civil society, women and former insurgents.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken towards the negotiation of an international arms trade treaty. [73290]

Mr Hague: The UK is fully committed to securing a robust and effective arms trade treaty (ATT). The UK delegation played an active and constructive role in the July 2011 Preparatory Committee meeting, at which further progress towards an ATT was made; including a joint P5 statement in support of the UN process. We continue to press with key states ahead of the crucial Negotiating Work Conference in July 2012; while also working closely with civil society and the UK defence industry to build widespread support for the Treaty.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to change the number of officials in his Department stationed in the British Indian Ocean Territory. [74501]

Mr Bellingham: There are no members of Foreign and Commonwealth staff stationed in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). The BIOT Administration is located at the FCO in London.

The Ministry of Defence currently has about 40 staff stationed in the BIOT, including the Commissioner's Representative.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Marine Environment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the designated Marine Protected Area surrounding the Chagos archipelago. [74247]

Mr Bellingham: The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) declared a Marine Protected Area (MPA) on 1 April 2010 to ensure the ongoing protection of the unique environment of the Territory.

A Science Advisory group has been created to draw up a scientific framework for the MPA and to advise on research and other activity to enhance its effectiveness.

The BIOT Administration is working closely with interested Chagossian groups and non-governmental organisations to work on specific environmental projects in BIOT.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many infringements of the designated Marine Protected Area surrounding the Chagos Archipelago have been reported to his Department since the area's inception. [74248]

Mr Bellingham: There have been 12 infringements of the Marine Protected area in the British Indian Ocean territory since 1 April 2010.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on enforcement of the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos Islands) Marine Protected Area since the area's inception. [74249]

Mr Bellingham: In the period since the declaration of the British Indian Ocean Territory Marine Protected Area (MPA) on 1 April 2010, a total of £3,089,943.31 has been spent on enforcement of the MPA. This includes the costs of the British Indian Overseas Territories patrol vessel, which performs a range of functions in the Territory.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his officials have duties associated with enforcing the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos Islands) Marine Protected Area. [74250]

Mr Bellingham: There are a number of officials of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) who have duties associated with the enforcement of the BIOT Marine Protected Area.

The BIOT Commissioner is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen by instructions through a Secretary of State. Mr Colin Roberts (Director of the FCO's Overseas Territories Directorate (OTD)) is the current BIOT Commissioner.

Under section 7 of the BIOT (Constitution) Order 2004, the Commissioner appoints a Commissioner's Representative, a Deputy Commissioner and a BIOT Administrator. There is in addition an Assistant Administrator.

The current Commissioner's representative is a Royal Navy commander appointed by the Ministry of Defence as Commander British Forces at BIOT. The Deputy Commissioner and the BIOT Administrator are currently members of OTD.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to propose the repeal of the legislation establishing the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos Islands) Marine Protected Area. [74251]

Mr Bellingham: There are no plans to repeal the legislation which established the Marine Protected Area in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit any British Overseas Territories in the next 12 months. [74471]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I have plans within the next 12 months to visit the British Overseas Territories. It is not usual practice to announce these visits until they are confirmed.

China: Human Rights

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on human rights in China. [73278]

Mr Hague: I regularly discuss human rights in China with my EU and other international counterparts, most recently at the meeting of EU Foreign Ministers on 10 October. We have liaised closely with EU member states on our concerns about the human rights situation in China over the last nine months, resulting in a number of EU statements and démarches on specific issues and individual cases.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on joint steps to identify and where appropriate seek the extradition of those suspected of crimes against humanity and crimes of sexual violence during the armed conflict in Colombia. [73384]

Mr Lidington: We regularly make clear that those responsible for international crimes must be held to account. We work closely with the Colombian Government and with civil society on human rights and justice reform, including addressing impunity. Our embassy in Bogota is supporting a project with the Colombian Attorney-General's office to improve the efficiency of the prosecution system to prioritise the most serious cases.

The UK has a bilateral extradition treaty with Colombia. Any decision on whether to seek a person's extradition is a matter for the prosecuting authorities.

Croatia: EU Enlargement

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has established a timetable for the passage of proposed legislation to ratify Croatia's EU accession treaty. [73532]

Mr Lidington: Croatia's EU accession treaty is due to be signed in December 2011 with a likely target date for actual accession of 1 July 2013, provided all member states have ratified the treaty in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. Mindful of the likely target date, we will introduce the necessary legislation to ratify the treaty as soon as practicable.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74371]

Mr Lidington: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 September 2010, *Official Report,* column 466W, to the hon. Member for Dundee East (Stewart Hosie).

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74981]

Mr Hague: The average cost of processing an invoice for payment at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) UK Corporate Service Centre in Milton Keynes is £2.94 for the month of September 2011. The number provided is based on average salary costs, excluding overheads. The Department is unable to provide the average cost of processing invoices for payment across the whole of the FCO's global network. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In the UK, the FCO settles all invoices electronically. Our overseas posts are able to make cheque payments. However, obtaining transactional level information from our overseas network could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74370]

Mr Lidington: The information is as follows:

Projects for 2011-12:

Contracted projects amount to £41 million across the global network. This includes new builds, refurbishments, health and safety and security improvements.

Maintenance projects across the global network to the amount of £16.3 million across 158 posts. Maintenance projects are works over £3,000 and generally under £250,000. Expenditure is limited to immediate health and safety risk to personal safety or security, legal and statutory compliance, leasehold obligations and maintaining freehold asset, values.

Refurbishment and maintenance of UK Estate at £1,096,323, includes replacement of light fittings, health and safety works to the roof at King Charles street and installation of new lifts. All scheduled work has been prioritised within available funding and constitutes essential health and safety work, or is subject to lease requirements or is part of the scheduled maintenance programme of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Smaller projects which our overseas missions manage themselves have not been included. This information is not held centrally and to collate it would incur a disproportionate cost.

Finalised figures for the planned works/refurbishment for the period 2012-13 are not currently available.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73104]

Mr Lidington: The Government introduced spending controls and approval routes for all new proposed spend on consultancy in May 2010 and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office follows these procedures. All requests to procure external consultancy costing in excess of £20,000 must have a business case prior to engaging external consultants, and the following minimum criteria are considered when giving approval:

The requirement is of genuine operational necessity;

The work cannot be undertaken by existing in house resources;

The commercial proposals represent real value for money with a demonstrable return on investment and do not exceed the prices and rates advice provided by Government Procurement Service.

Business case requests to procure external consultancy costing in excess of £20,000 must be approved by the nominated departmental board member. Requests costing in excess of £100,000, or expected to last longer than nine months and/or involve the use of procurement consultants are also subject to additional approval by the Cabinet Office and/or Government Procurement Service.

Transport-related Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2007; and at what cost. [74373]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) expects staff to pay any transport-related fines without recourse to public funds.

Budgets in the FCO are devolved to individual directorates within the UK and its network of nearly 270 posts overseas. As a result, this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72568]

Mr Lidington: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Litigation matters in the UK are generally dealt with by the Treasury Solicitors Department, and there is little requirement for recourse to external solicitors. Barristers were engaged during the financial year 2010-11 for a variety of litigation matters. The majority of these barristers were appointed from the Attorney-General's Panel or were First Treasury Counsel. On the minority of occasions where the Foreign and Commonwealth Office required the services of specialist barristers not on the Panel, nominations were sought from the Attorney-General's Office. In these cases agreement of their hourly rates must be reached before a nomination is made. Guidance on the Attorney-General's Panels, including details of hourly rates, can be found at:

http://www.tsol.gov.uk/
attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

In relation to recourse to legal advice and representation on non-contentious matters (for example contracts or property matters) during 2010-11, in cases where the Treasury Solicitors Department was not used, external solicitors were chosen through a tender process in accordance with the Legal Services Framework. Legal firms which took part in the tender process will have competed on the basis of the quality of the service offered and the price. There is also scope for further competition on price before a firm is chosen. This process ensures that Government Departments are able to obtain legal advice cost-effectively.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73665]

Mr Lidington: The total spend by Private Offices for Ministers on Government hospitality was:

	£
2010	
October	1,464
November	4,299
December	6,936
2011	
January	3,457
February	919
March	913
April	727
May	1,120
June	1,231
July	2,593
August	1,905
September	61

These figures are based on services used and paid for in the months quoted. Activities funded include working meetings with Ministers in the UK, meetings with senior political and military figures from other countries, and events hosted for political and business delegations (including those in support of UK Trade and Industry). Any expenditure on official hospitality is kept under rigorous scrutiny to ensure value for money and effectiveness and is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73835]

Mr Lidington: In the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, pre-qualification questionnaires are not a mandated part of the procurement process for procurements under £100,000. Our procurement guidance incorporates the Cabinet Office requirement to eliminate pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements under this value unless it involves matters of national security.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74372]

Mr Bellingham: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Brazilian, *(b)* Russian, *(c)* Indian and *(d)* Chinese counterparts on the international trade in illegal narcotics. [73282]

Mr Hague: The UK has ongoing dialogue with these countries on a wide range of bilateral co-operation issues, including the international trade in illegal narcotics. We are committed to cutting the harm from drugs and reducing their supply. We work closely with a wide range of countries on counter narcotics, particularly where drug trafficking from and in those countries poses a threat to the UK.

Egypt: Economic Situation

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the state of Egypt's economy. [73293]

Mr Hague: Political transition in Egypt has opened up the potential for long needed reform to stimulate entrepreneurship and greater prosperity. The short-term impact, however, has been a sharp decline in growth due to disrupted economic activity, a weakened investment climate and a significant decline in foreign direct investment and tourism. Egypt will need to navigate through the economic downturn, with limited room for public spending and rising borrowing costs. The immediate challenge for the Government of Egypt is to fulfil public expectations and build social cohesion while preserving macro-economic stability. Restoring fiscal health and more inclusive growth which generates new jobs will be critical over the medium term.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to provide support to the Egyptian economy; and what such steps he has taken together with his EU counterparts. [73294]

Mr Hague: The UK is working through the G8 to provide short-term economic assistance. Up to $38 billion of support to countries in the region, including Egypt, is available through the Deauville Partnership. We encourage Egypt to turn to international borrowing if the situation requires it. G8 countries have committed to open their markets for trade and investment for countries in the region committed to reform.

We encourage Egypt to respond to the EU offer of short-term assistance, and support the EU's efforts to intensify negotiations on the liberalisation of trade in services and investment. In the longer term, the EU intends to work on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area that firmly ties Egypt into the EU market.

Bilaterally, as part of the Arab Partnership, we have allocated £70 million to support economic reform in the region. The UK remains the largest foreign direct investor in Egypt, and we will continue to promote trade links between the two countries.

Egypt: Elections

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to help ensure that the outcome of the proposed November 2011 elections in Egypt is implemented in a stable and orderly manner. [73462]

Alistair Burt: The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), have urged the Egyptian authorities to deliver an open and plural election process, and encouraged them to ensure full transparency and consultation during the transition process.

The Government have made it clear that we stand ready to support Egypt during this challenging time to ensure that the aspirations of the Egyptian people are met. Under the UK's Arab Partnership we have allocated over £1 million to Egypt to help put in place the building blocks of democracy. This includes projects with the Egyptian as well as like-minded Governments to co-ordinate practical assistance to the electoral process. The UK hosted Egyptian Interior Ministry officials during the UK local elections and referendum in May, providing technical advice on electoral management including ensuring access to polling stations and the integrity of the vote. We are also working with non-governmental partners to support inclusive political dialogue and to strengthen the capacity of nascent political parties in areas including policy-making and parliamentary procedure to help facilitate a smooth transition.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has also encouraged the Government of Egypt to consider international observation of forthcoming elections. We welcome recent indications that the Egyptian authorities will permit an international presence during parliamentary elections, and encourage them to finalise arrangements for this as soon as possible.

Egypt: Freedom of Expression

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent of freedom of speech in Egypt. [73307]

Mr Hague: There is greater space for public debate in Egyptian society since the fall of Mubarak. But we are concerned about limits on freedom of expression in Egypt, including the increase in prosecutions of bloggers and activists, and the closing of satellite television stations. Our embassy in Cairo maintains regular contact with the Egyptian Government on human rights issues.

On 7 October 2011 the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), issued a statement expressing our serious concerns about the treatment of Maikel Nabil Sanad, an Egyptian blogger sentenced to three years imprisonment on 10 April by an Egyptian military court. He also stated the British Government's view that freedom of expression, including freedom of media and the ability for citizens to debate issues and challenge their Governments, is fundamental to building a democratic society, and that we will continue to follow the human rights situation in Egypt closely.

Egypt: Religious Freedom

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the violence against Coptic Christians in Egypt; and whether he has plans to make representations to the Government of Egypt on the protection of religious minorities. [74303]

Alistair Burt: Tensions between Christians and Muslims had initially eased during the revolution, but there has been a resurgence of violence between the communities. The Coptic community has been calling for greater protection, equality and new legislation. We have raised our concerns about the dangers of extremism and sectarianism in Egypt with the authorities, and urged that respect for human rights be enshrined in the constitution, including guarantees for minority rights.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), issued a statement on 10 October expressing his deep concern over the unrest and the loss of life in Cairo on 9 October. He urged all Egyptians to refrain from violence, support the Egyptian Prime Minister's call for calm and for all sides to engage in dialogue. He said that the freedom of religious belief needs to be protected and that the ability to worship in peace is a vital component of a democratic society. On 12 October the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed the situation in Egypt with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mohamed Amro.

Egypt: Trade Unions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the rights of trade unions in Egypt. [73308]

Mr Hague: The Egyptian authorities have indicated that they will reform labour laws and have made some progress. However Egypt has seen dramatic changes this year and significant challenges remain. As part of wider reform in Egypt, we support labour law reform and are monitoring the situation. In March 2011, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), raised our concerns about new Egyptian laws to outlaw protests and strikes with the Egyptian Finance Minister. Staff from the British embassy in Cairo have also discussed the possibility of establishing an independent Trade Union Congress in Egypt with local trade unionists in Cairo.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73211]

Mr Lidington: It is Foreign and Commonwealth Office policy that staff only use official e-mail accounts for official business.

EU General Affairs Council: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what agreements on the EU position for the climate change discussions in Durban were made at the EU General Affairs Council on 12 September 2011. [73010]

Mr Bellingham: The General Affairs Council in September discussed climate change in the context of agreeing the draft agenda for the October European Council.

The EU's position for Durban was agreed at the EU Environment Council on 10 October, at which the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), represented the UK.

The European Council on 23 October will discuss the EU's position.

European Union Bill 2010-12

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 166W, on the European Union Bill, what the final cost to his Department was of the preparing and supporting the passage of the European Union Act 2011. [73004]

Mr Hague: The estimated cost to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of preparing and supporting the passage of the European Union Act 2011 is £420,000. This figure includes the estimate of £195,000 provided in my answer of 28 February 2011 and comprises the estimated staff costs incurred by those officials engaged full-time to prepare and support the passage of the Bill, the costs charged to the FCO by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel for the same purpose, and administrative expenditure such as travel costs incurred engaging with the EU institutions on the Bill.

Both the assembly of a team of officials and the use of the services of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, for which a charge is made, are standard practice for Whitehall Departments in preparing legislation. However, no additional Government staff have been employed to develop or support the Bill, so there has been no increase in Government spending overall as a result of its development.

Fiji: Trade Unions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the rights of trade unions in Fiji. [73297]

Mr Hague: The arrest of two trade unionists in Fiji on 4 August for organising meetings is a contravention of the right to peaceful assembly. This is only the latest act by the military against the unions and their rights.

On 12 August, the Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington), issued a statement expressing the Government's concern over the arrests.

On 12 October, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), raised our concerns with the Fijian high commissioner.

Freedom of Expression: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from *(a)* foreign Governments and *(b)* international non-governmental organisations on online freedom of expression. [73309]

Mr Hague: There is no centrally held information on what representations we have received either from foreign Governments or non-governmental organisation on this issue. Representations in the UK and with our diplomats overseas may be verbal or written; discussed directly with Ministers; or through letters to individual country desks. It is not possible to quantify this without incurring disproportionate cost.

We regularly discuss this important issue with other Governments and human rights organisations and at a sub-group of my Advisory Group on Human Rights which was set up specifically to advise the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on freedom of expression on the internet.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what date has been set for the next meeting of his Department's Freedom of Expression on the Internet Expert Group. [73311]

Mr Hague: The Freedom of Expression on the Internet Expert Group met for the second time on 5 October, as a follow-up to the first meeting on 20 July. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in the new year, although a date has not yet been set.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what groups and companies were invited to and *(a)* did not attend and *(b)* attended the first meeting of his Department's Freedom of Expression on the Internet Expert Group. [73312]

Mr Hague: Those invited to, but unable to attend, the first meeting of the Freedom of Expression on the Internet Expert Group were Facebook, Global Network Initiative, university of Nottingham, London metropolitan university, Reuters and Oxford Internet Institute. Those who attended were Google, Global Partners, Vodafone, Reporters Without Borders, University college London, Article 19, Amnesty International and Index on Censorship. As a matter of courtesy, all members of the Foreign Secretary's Advisory Group on Human Rights were invited.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each paper prepared for the first meeting of his Department's Freedom of Expression on the Internet Expert Group. [73313]

Mr Hague: No papers were prepared in advance of this meeting.

The Government strongly support freedom of expression on the internet, and listening to civil society and experts from academia, non-governmental organisations and the private sector is crucial to our understanding of this complex set of issues.

Ghana

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are posted to Ghana. [74237]

Mr Bellingham: Approximately 170 staff work at the British high commission in Accra. This includes UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit Ghana. [74238]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has no plans to visit Ghana in the near future. I visited Ghana in February and May this year. Department for International Development and Home Office Ministers visited in July and September this year respectively.

Ghana: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between the UK and Ghana. [74241]

Mr Bellingham: The relationship between the UK and Ghana is strong and vibrant. It is rooted in our long-standing economic, political and cultural connections, our shared values, and the deep links between our peoples. The UK has historically played a key role in the country and we continue to work closely with the Ghanaians politically, commercially and through development aid.

Politically, the UK enjoys close working relationships with all parts of the Ghanaian Government, co-operating on a range of issues, including migration, counter-narcotics and maritime security. Commercially, there are a number of large UK investments in the Ghanaian energy and telecommunications sectors.

The UK is the second largest bilateral aid donor to Ghana and fourth largest overall. The UK has committed £85 million in development assistance in the current financial year. This will rise to £100 million in financial year 2014-15.

Gilad Shalit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to assist efforts towards the release of Gilad Shalit. [73306]

Mr Hague: The UK has long called for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit's immediate and unconditional release. We welcome the agreement between Israel and Hamas announced on 11 October to release him as part of a prisoner exchange. Holding him in captivity has been utterly unjustified from the beginning and yet it has gone on for five long years. We are pleased that this long overdue development is finally taking place.

During his visit in June, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), met the father of Gilad Shalit and conveyed our sympathies and concerns. Baroness Ashton, EU High Representative, met the parents on 19 July and issued a statement confirming that she would continue to raise this issue in all her meetings, on behalf of the EU.

On 22 June, I released the following statement:

> "On the fifth anniversary of the kidnap of Israeli Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit, we remember his family and call again for his immediate release. For five years Gilad Shalit's parents, Noam and Aviva, have been waiting for his return and praying that each day should be the last day of his captivity. It is unacceptable that Gilad Shalit is being held by Hamas without any access to the Red Cross.
>
> Hamas must immediately allow a representative of the Red Cross to visit him. The last sign of life was received on 2 October 2009. Gilad Shalit's family have been waiting for almost two years for another such message. It is difficult to imagine the pain and anguish they must feel. My thoughts are very much with Gilad and his family on this day. I call again for Hamas to release Gilad Shalit immediately and unconditionally."

Mr Shalit's long captivity has been painful for his family and I hope that he will be reunited with them as soon as possible.

Human Trafficking

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Brazilian, *(b)* Russian, *(c)* Indian and *(d)* Chinese counterparts on international trafficking in human beings. [73281]

Mr Hague: The UK has ongoing dialogue on a wide range of bilateral co-operation issues with these countries. Recent dialogues with India, China and Brazil have included discussion of international trafficking in human beings.

Indonesia: Papua

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Government of Indonesia on West Papua; and if he will make a statement. [73537]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We regularly discuss the situation in the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua with the Indonesian Government.

Our priority for the provinces is to encourage full implementation of special autonomy and to press for increased focus on meaningful economic and social development to address the widespread poverty in the region. We also run a significant climate change programme aimed at reducing carbon emissions in Papua.

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for dialogue between the Government of Indonesia and representatives of the people of West Papua; and what steps he is taking to encourage such a process. [73538]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There is no formal dialogue process currently underway between the central Government of Indonesia and representatives of the people of Papua and West Papua. The President has indicated his support for 'constructive communication' to resolve differences and the Papua Peace Network has been working hard to build consensus around what issues any dialogue might cover. The UK continues to encourage all sides to explore the use of constructive and peaceful dialogue to resolve differences between the Government of Indonesia and representatives of the Papuan and West Papuan people.

Indonesia: Religious Freedom

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Government of Indonesia on its treatment of Ahmadiyya Muslims in East Java, West Java and South Sumatra. [73044]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have been following the cases of attacks on members of the Ahmadiyya community closely. This issue was raised bilaterally on 4 August by our embassy in Jakarta with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London with the Indonesian embassy.

The recent rise in violent incidents towards minority faith groups in Indonesia is a concern and we will continue to press for tolerance and respect for all religious minorities at official and ministerial level as appropriate. Tackling discrimination and protecting minority communities was also discussed with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue in Brussels on 9 March 2011. We will continue to push for freedom of religion to be included in discussions at future Human Rights Dialogues, as well as raising the issue bilaterally with the Indonesian authorities.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Government of Indonesia on the operation of the criminal justice system in that country in respect of crimes of violence committed against Ahmadiyya Muslims. [73045]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have been following the cases of attacks on members of minority faith communities, including the Ahmadiyya community, closely. The UK fully supported the EU statement of 29 July 2011 which expressed strong concern that "sentences imposed for violent crimes against religious or other minorities should always be commensurate with the gravity of the crimes committed".

We will continue to stress to the Indonesian Government that hate crimes should be robustly investigated and that those found guilty of involvement should receive sentences commensurate with the severity of the crimes.

This issue was discussed bilaterally on 4 August by our embassy in Jakarta with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London with the Indonesian embassy. Tackling discrimination and protecting minority communities was also discussed with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue in Brussels on 9 March 2011.

Internet: Conferences

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* companies, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* representatives of foreign Governments have been invited to his Department's conference on cyberspace on 1 and 2 November 2011. [73310]

Mr Lidington: To date, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has invited approximately 245 companies and non-governmental organisations and over 60 representatives of foreign Governments to the London Conference on cyberspace on 1 to 2 November. We do not yet have a list of confirmed attendees but a complete list of all confirmed participants will be placed in the Library of the House at the start of the conference.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the Bushehr nuclear power project in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [73292]

Mr Hague: UN and EU sanctions against Iran have specifically allowed the construction and operation of the Bushehr power reactor. We have always respected Iran's right to a peaceful civilian nuclear programme as long as it meets its international obligations and responsibilities. The Bushehr project underlines the fact that Iran does not need to pursue illegal activities in order to enjoy the benefits of nuclear power.

But it should be of serious concern that as Bushehr becomes operational, Iran will be the only country with a significant nuclear programme outside the convention on nuclear safety. Iran's isolation means its nuclear programme falls short on safety in some key respects. The convention on nuclear safety is a system of mutual oversight that sets international benchmarks on the design, construction and operation of reactors. We are pleased that Russian experts are working to ensure Bushehr is operated safely, but full co-operation with the international community is the key to Iran accessing the best international expertise and realising the full potential of a safe, secure and economically viable nuclear power programme.

Israel: Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the abortion rate in Israel in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74685]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold information on abortion rates in Israel, but the Israel Central Bureau of statistics publishes data annually. These data cover the period between 2009 to 2011.

Israel: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings he has had with the Israeli Leader of the Opposition; what issues were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74693]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), most recently met the Leader of the Opposition of Israel, Tzipi Livni, on 6 October 2011. Speaking after the meeting, he issued the following statement:

> "I was delighted to welcome Ms Livni to London at a critical moment for the Middle East. It was an appalling situation when political abuse of our legal procedures prevented people like Mrs Livni from travelling legitimately to the UK. We have dealt with this urgently as we promised to on coming to office. The UK will continue to honour our international obligations and make sure that people who have committed some of the most awful crimes—wherever in the world they took place—can be brought to justice in our courts.
>
> Today's meeting showed the warmth and strength of our bilateral relations. Israel is an important ally and we will continue to work together to face common threats such as the Iranian nuclear programme. We discussed the importance of building support for a two state solution that leads to a lasting peace in the Middle East. I made clear my desire to see Israel secure now and in the future, alongside a Palestinian state, and my belief that both Israelis and Palestinians should return to talks in line with the Quartet Statement."

Libya: Armed Conflict

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Libyan National Transitional Council on the implementation of *(a)* extradition policy and *(b)* other new policies for that country. [73474]

Alistair Burt: The National Transitional Council's (NTC) immediate priorities are ensuring security across the country and dealing with short-term humanitarian needs. In parallel, they are starting to rebuild their country and establish new structures for political dialogue. We are in discussion with the NTC on all these issues.

While we have had a number of discussions with the NTC regarding crimes committed by the Gaddafi regime, we have not as yet discussed Libya's extradition policies in particular. There is a wide range of issues we will want to raise with a new transitional Government and its post-election successors, among which will be their approach to this subject.

Libya: Economic Situation

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential contribution of member countries of the Arab League to economic recovery in Libya. [73272]

Mr Hague: Regional states have played an integral role in the international effort to protect civilians in Libya and will also be crucial to Libya's economic recovery. The UN, in the form of the UN Support Mission in Libya, has been tasked with co-ordinating the international response to the stabilisation agenda in Libya. We anticipate that the countries of the Arab League will play an important part in providing the support the Libyan Government requires to rebuild the Libyan economy, and the Government will continue to work closely with them, the UN, International Monetary Fund and World Bank on this issue.

Libya: Politics and Government

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the ideological objectives of the National Transitional Council in Libya. [73461]

Alistair Burt: In their draft constitutional declaration, the National Transitional Council (NTC) set out their road map for governance, leading up to elections and achieving democracy. Their stated aims are that Libya works towards

> 'a stable, secure and just society that promotes education and culture, provides welfare and healthcare, raising the young generation according to the values of Islam, selflessness and patriotism'.

The NTC have also said that they want to see a Libya that is a democratic, independent state, with its people the source of authority, Islam its religion and Islamic sharia as the main source of legislation while guaranteeing the rights of all sections of Libyan society.

Libya: Terrorism

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with members of Libya's National Transitional Council on compensation payments for British victims of Libyan state-sponsored terrorism. [73813]

Alistair Burt: As the Prime Minister, said on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, this will be an important bilateral issue between the UK and the new Libyan authorities. The National Transitional Council's Chairman Abdul Jalil and Prime Minister Jibril have assured the Government that they will work with the UK to resolve bilateral issues arising from the wrongs of the Gaddafi regime. More detailed discussions with Libya on this specific issue will await the establishment of a new Libyan transitional Government.

Malawi: Demonstrations

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Malawi on its response to recent anti-Government protests. [74193]

Mr Bellingham: The UK deplored the violence that marred the demonstrations across Malawi on 20 July 2011. As well as urging restraint on both sides, I publicly condemned the threatening behaviour of elements of President Mutharika's party, and the violence meted out to protestors and the media by the police resulting in the deaths of 20 people. In discussions with Malawi's Foreign Minister in London on 12 October, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), and I made it clear that the rights of free assembly and expression guaranteed under the Malawian constitution must be respected, and the safety of people exercising those rights must be guaranteed.

Malawi: Human Rights

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the human rights situation in Malawi following the death of Robert Chasowa. [74192]

Mr Bellingham: I am deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Malawi. The death of Robert Chasowa, a student activist, comes after a string of arson attacks and death threats against prominent civil society figures and other Malawians who have criticised the behaviour of their President. In discussions with Malawi's Foreign Minister in London on 12 October, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), and I called on the Malawian Government to do all it can to protect human rights defenders, investigate these crimes and hold those responsible accountable for their actions. We further underlined our serious concern at the dangerous rhetoric President Mutharika has used against civil society, which has the potential to incite further violence. While Her Majesty's Government takes no partisan position in Malawian politics, we will continue to put pressure on the Government of Malawi to respect their international human rights commitments, and we intend to step up our support to civil society organisations in Malawi that promote accountability, transparency and respect for human rights.

Nigeria: Armed Conflict

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to the Government of Nigeria to help resolve localised violent conflict in that country. [73928]

Mr Bellingham: During post-election violence in April 2011, the British high commission in Abuja initiated an international community statement urging restraint and worked with Nigerian political leaders to use their influence to calm the inflamed situation, particularly in northern Nigeria.

We remain concerned about inter-communal violence in Plateau State in Nigeria. Over the past year the British high commission in Abuja has regularly met state and federal level authorities including the Chair of the Presidential Committee on the Jos Crisis, Chief Solomon Lar, as well as traditional and religious leaders, and stressed the need to implement a long-term approach combining job opportunities, reconciliation and political settlement. The British high commission also works closely with the Department for International Development on ground-level peace initiatives in Jos which have worked to increase dialogue between communities and to provide vocational skills training.

We welcome the improved levels of peace and security in the Niger delta which have resulted from the Nigerian Government's amnesty process which began in 2009. On my visit to Nigeria in February this year I stressed the importance of economic growth and the provision of employment opportunities for young people in the delta when I met Rotimi Amaechi, the Governor of Rivers State, in Port Harcourt.

Nigeria: Terrorism

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department is making to combating emerging terrorist threats in Nigeria. [73929]

Mr Bellingham: As the Prime Minister made clear on his visit to Nigeria in July, we have a strong counter-terrorism relationship with Nigeria that we want to develop. Following the 26 August attack on the UN building in Abuja, it is clear that the threat from terrorism in Nigeria is evolving. We are working with the Nigerian Government to promote a response that is both proportionate and targeted.

Piracy

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Brazilian, *(b)* Russian, *(c)* Indian and *(d)* Chinese counterparts on international piracy. [73280]

Mr Hague: The UK has ongoing dialogue with these countries on a wide range of bilateral co-operation issues, including international piracy. The Government are committed to tackling piracy in the Indian ocean and critical Gulf of Aden trade artery, and UK naval forces work alongside those of China, India and Russia demonstrating unprecedented levels of military co-ordination. The Government works closely with Brazil, China, India and Russia through the UN Security Council, which pays close attention to piracy, as well as in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, to ensure that the international effort to counter-piracy is as co-ordinated and effective as possible in protecting seafarers, safeguarding the freedom of global trade and promoting stability in Somalia and the region. Piracy will be discussed during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth this month.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74825]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supports this policy. It has not identified any opportunities to implement this policy within its own operations, but it will continue to discuss the subject with the Cabinet Office.

Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what evidence he considered in assessing the merits of instituting a Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review. [73305]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) departmental business plan contains a commitment to assess the merits of Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR).

FCO officials are currently working with their Department for International Development and Cabinet Office counterparts to provide a single assessment for Ministers on the merits of instituting a QDDR.

The work is due to be completed in December 2011.

Sierra Leone

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are posted to Sierra Leone. [74232]

Mr Bellingham: Approximately 200 staff work at the British high commission in Freetown. This includes UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Sierra Leone: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between the UK and Sierra Leone. [74231]

Mr Bellingham: The UK's bilateral relationship with Sierra Leone is strong. The UK has historically played a key role in bringing stability to the country and we continue to do so politically, commercially, militarily and through development aid.

Politically, the UK enjoys close working relationships with all parts of the Sierra Leonean Government. Commercially, there are a number of large UK investments in the Sierra Leonean mining and energy sectors. I will address an investment conference in London on 20 October designed to promote UK-Sierra Leone commercial links.

The UK-led international military assistance training team in Freetown has provided training to the Sierra Leone armed forces and continues to provide mentoring and advice at senior levels of the Government. The UK is the largest bilateral aid donor to Sierra Leone, giving approximately £445 million over the past 10 years. Following the outcome of the Department for International Development's bilateral aid review, UK aid spend in Sierra Leone will increase over the next four years.

South Sudan: Politics and Government

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the political development of South Sudan and *(b)* the state of relations between South Sudan and Sudan. [73463]

Mr Bellingham: President Kiir appointed a new Cabinet in September. The British ambassador and Head of the Department for International Development (DFID), South Sudan, hold regular meetings with South Sudanese Ministers and will continue to engage with them. The UK is also offering support through DFID for capacity building in political institutions.

Long-term peace between Sudan and South Sudan can only be found through negotiation. South Sudanese President Kiir and Sudanese President Bashir met in Khartoum on 9 October, where they committed to peaceful dialogue. We urge them to now deliver on this commitment and resolve their remaining areas of difference, particularly on oil, citizenship and border demarcation and the status of the disputed region of Abyei.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the dismissal of the elected governor of Blue Nile state in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [73807]

Mr Bellingham: We are greatly concerned at the ongoing violence in Blue Nile state following the outbreak of fighting on 2 September, and the dismissal of its elected governor, Malik Agar, and his replacement by a Government nominee. We urge all parties to work towards a ceasefire, and to address the root causes of conflict in the area.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the nomination of the *(a)* Deputy Chief Administrator for the Abyei Area and *(b)* Speaker of Abyei Area Council; and if he will make a statement. [73808]

Mr Bellingham: We continue to encourage the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to reach an agreement quickly on arrangements for the administration of Abyei, in line with the Abyei Interim Agreement of 20 June.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on parties that missed the deadline for withdrawal of forces from the Abyei Area. [73809]

Mr Bellingham: We are deeply concerned that the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army have not yet withdrawn from the Abyei area despite the presence of the UN Interim Security Force in Abyei. This contravenes the arrangements set out in the Abyei Interim Agreement of 20 June and of UN Security Council Resolution 1990. We call on both sides to withdraw fully their troops immediately, and for full humanitarian access to be granted.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports from the Force Commander of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei on the withdrawal of Sudanese People's Liberation Army forces from the Abyei area. [73857]

Mr Bellingham: UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous said in his briefing on the deployment of the UN Interim Security Force in Abyei to the UN Security Council on 6 October that neither the Sudanese People's Liberation Army nor the Sudanese armed forces had withdrawn from Abyei.

We continue to make it clear to both parties, including through the UN Security Council, that both sides should fully withdraw immediately and allow full humanitarian access to the area.

Syria: Foreign Relations

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the governments of *(a)* Russia and *(b)* China on their relations with the Government of Syria and attempts to bring about peaceful change in that country. [75227]

Alistair Burt: The UK has led efforts to build international pressure on President Assad's regime to end the violence in Syria. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has spoken to both his Chinese and Russian counterparts about this, most recently with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov during his visit to Moscow with the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), on 12 September. The Foreign Secretary made it clear that he thought the Russian and Chinese veto of the draft UN Security Council Resolution on Syria on 3 October was:

> "a bitter blow to all those Syrians who have implored the international community to take a stand."

The UK will continue to press Russia and China to put pressure on the Syrian regime to stop the violence.

Syria: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of civilian deaths in Syria during the recent demonstrations in that country. [73274]

Mr Hague: The latest estimate provided by the UN, on 6 October, is in excess of 3,000 dead since the violence in Syria began. The severe restrictions imposed by the Syrian authorities on reporting in Syria and the refusal by the Syrian authorities to allow unfettered access to independent international organisations and international media to Syria means that figures for the number of casualties can only be estimated.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much it expects to provide in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74826]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) makes grants to project implementers and other organisations around the world to help deliver UK foreign policy objectives.

Budgets in the FCO are devolved to nearly 270 posts and details of these payments are not held centrally. As a result, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on the installation of the Coastal Radar System in the British Overseas Territory of Turks and Caicos; and if he will make a statement. [74467]

Mr Bellingham: The Coastal Radar System is not yet operational. This delay is frustrating as the system will give the Turks and Caicos Islands increased capability to tackle drug and people trafficking.

Work on the building, tower and antennae for the Coastal Radar Station is now complete and the transceivers are in place. However, other electronic equipment deteriorated while in storage. The supplier has been asked to tender for remedial work to make the station operational as soon as possible.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the British Overseas Territory of Turks and Caicos in 2012. [74469]

Mr Bellingham: The Turks and Caicos Islands will participate in the Diamond Jubilee Beacons project which will see 2,012 beacons lit across the UK and around the world. The Turks and Caicos Islands Government are considering other ideas for marking the Diamond Jubilee.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the investigation by the Special Investigation and Prosecution Team in Turks and Caicos; and if he will make a statement. [74470]

Mr Bellingham: I am following the progress of the Special Investigation and Prosecution Team and receive regular reports on their work.

The Special Prosecutor has concluded the majority of the investigation within her 18-month estimate. It would be premature to make any further statement because this is a criminal investigation, and, until such time as charges are preferred and persons are brought before the court, it would be improper and potentially prejudicial to the investigation to do so.

USA: Scholarships

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of Marshall scholars who are employed in the US Executive or Legislature. [73295]

Mr Hague: Records held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission indicate that there are at least 25 former Marshall scholars currently working in the US Executive and Legislature and one former Marshall scholar is currently one of the nine Supreme Court Justices.

USA: Visas

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the cost of obtaining a visa for travel to the US. [74262]

Alistair Burt: The United States Visa Waiver Programme (VWP) allows most British passport holders to visit the US for up to 90 days without having to obtain a visa, although those doing so must apply for advanced authorisation through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA). There are also a variety of visas available for other types of travel, including for workers and students, and the cost of obtaining these can range from approximately $140 to $800. Our records show that we have received no representations related to visa costs in 2011.

Yemen

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are stationed in Yemen. [74497]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to the response given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), on 17 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 993-97W.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consular assistance his Department is providing to British citizens in Yemen following recent civil unrest in that country. [74641]

Alistair Burt: As our travel advice makes clear, the FCO's current ability to provide any consular assistance in Yemen is very limited. We currently advise against all travel to Yemen and strongly urge British nationals to leave now by commercial means. It also makes clear that if British nationals do not leave the country now while there are some commercial airlines still operating, it is extremely unlikely that the British Government will be able to evacuate them or provide consular assistance. We strongly advise British nationals to make plans and leave immediately.

Yulia Tymoshenko

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Ukraine against the prison sentence given to Yulia Tymoshenko; and if he will make a statement. [75036]

Mr Lidington: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 315. We have repeatedly and consistently told representatives of the Ukrainian Government that the way the trials against their political opponents, including Ms Tymoshenko, have been conducted belies their commitment to a closer relationship with the EU. The Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg), spoke directly to President Yanukovych during the Eastern Partnership summit in Warsaw on 29-30 September and told him that cases such as Tymoshenko's were a threat to UK parliamentary support for ratification of the Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA). The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), issued a press statement on 12 October 2011 expressing deep concern about the verdict and sentence.

We continue to monitor the situation closely and to use every opportunity to urge the Ukrainian authorities to respect EU standards.

Yvonne Fletcher

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work has been undertaken to secure the extradition from Libya of the main suspect in the case of the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [73475]

Alistair Burt: Helping the Metropolitan Police Service conclude the investigation into the killing of WPC Yvonne Fletcher is a priority for this Government. It will be an important issue in the UK's bilateral relations with the new Libyan authorities. The Government are in regular contact with the Metropolitan police and we stand ready to assist them in returning to Tripoli as soon as the conditions on the ground allow.

The National Transitional Council's chairman, Abdul Jalil, and Prime Minister Jibril have assured the Government that they will work with the UK to resolve the ongoing investigation into the killing of WPC Fletcher.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to take steps to raise the awareness of the dangers of asbestos to *(a)* construction workers, *(b)* plumbers, *(c)* carpenters and joiners and *(d)* electricians. [75215]

Chris Grayling: Since 2008, the HSE's 'Hidden Killer' campaign has been effective in raising awareness among the workers most likely to be exposed to asbestos in the workplace, including plumbers, joiners and electricians. HSE continues to work with industry and others to develop and deliver new approaches to raise awareness among those most at risk.

Examples of these approaches include:

The asbestos "Training Pledge" initiative, launched on 5 September this year. Under the initiative, training providers have pledged to provide free asbestos awareness training to tradespeople who may be exposed to asbestos as part of their work. By the end of the pledge period on 30 September, training companies throughout Great Britain had pledged over 13,500 hours of free classroom based and online training. Tradespeople will be able to undertake this training throughout October and November 2011.

Work with educational partners to develop training materials that colleges can use to raise awareness of the risks of working with asbestos to those new to the construction and maintenance industries.

Child Benefit: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants there were of child benefit in Ashfield constituency in each year from 2005 to 2011. [72978]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The following table gives the requested information:

Child benefit claimants in Ashfield Constituency, 2005-10

	Number of families	*Number of children*
2010	12,840	21,795
2009	12,625	21,455
2008	12,415	21,175
2007	12,390	21,260
2006	12,335	21,245
2005	12,235	21,085

This data can be found in the geographical statistics publications on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geographical.htm

Child Support Agency

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of Child Support Agency cases where regular payments by the non-resident parent are not made; [71180]

(2) how many clients of the Child Support Agency are resident in Reading West constituency; [71181]

(3) how many successful prosecutions there have been for failure to make payments to the Child Support Agency of non-resident parents of children residing in Reading West constituency. [71174]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan, dated 8 September 2011:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of Child Support Agency cases where regular payments by the non-resident parent are not made [71180]; and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many clients of the Child Support Agency are resident in Reading West constituency [71181]; and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many successful prosecutions there have been for failure to make payments to the Child Support Agency of non-resident parents of children residing in Reading West constituency. [71174]

The June 2011 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) available at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0611.html

and in the House of Commons library shows that 669,400 cases made a child maintenance payment out of 862,100 cases where maintenance was due in the quarter to June 2011. This leaves 192,700 cases which did not make a maintenance payment.

There were 1,770 cases as at June 2011 where the parent with care was resident in Reading West constituency. Of these cases, 1,030 received a child maintenance payment in the quarter to June 2011 out of 1,310 cases where maintenance was due. This leaves 280 cases which did not receive a maintenance payment.

There were 1,870 cases as at June 2011 where the non-resident parent was resident in Reading West constituency. Of these cases, 1,130 made a child maintenance payment in the quarter to June 2011 out of 1,430 cases where maintenance was due. This leaves 300 cases which did not make a maintenance payment.

Please note a proportion of these cases will be the same caseload where both the non-resident parent and the parent with care are resident in Reading West constituency. Caseload figures include cases administered on the CS2 and CSCS computer systems as well as cases administered off-system.

Failure to pay child maintenance is not a criminal offence, so parents can not be prosecuted. However, where a non-resident parent fails to pay maintenance, there are a number of enforcement actions available. Money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's earnings if the non-resident parent is employed, money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's bank or building society account, or action can be taken through the courts.

The most serious forms of enforcement are commitment to prison or disqualification from driving. The decision whether to implement, and the length of the order, is at the discretion of a Magistrates' Court (or Sheriff in Scotland) where they are satisfied that a non-resident parent has "wilfully refused or culpably neglected" to pay child maintenance - but this is not a criminal sanction.

Page 23 of the June 2011 QSS shows enforcement actions carried out by the Child Support Agency. It is not possible to break these figures specifically for those non-resident parents who have failed to pay maintenance for children residing in Reading West.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the likely effects of the introduction of charges for use of the statutory child support service on *(a)* each income decile of the population and *(b)* lone parents. [73246]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions will produce estimates of the numbers impacted when we publish detailed proposals in the form of draft regulations. The impact assessments for the draft regulations will set out the estimated impacts on volumes and individuals.

Crisis Loans: South Wales

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for *(a)* crisis loans and *(b)* budgeting loans were rejected in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency in each of the last five years. [74576]

Steve Webb: Data are not available for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, therefore the budget area of Llanelli has been used as it covers the relevant constituency. However, data for Llanelli also cover areas outside of the constituency.

The data are provided in the following table:

Number of initial refusals for budgeting loans (BLs) and crisis loans (CLs) over the last five years

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
BLs initial refusals	6,940	5,880	7,010	7,570	7,370
CLs initial refusals	5,740	11,870	12,510	12,840	10,580

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
2. Figures are based on initial refusals and do not include changes made on review.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received (i) crisis loans and (ii) budgeting loans in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency in each of the last five years. [74651]

Steve Webb: Data are not available for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, therefore the budget area of Llanelli has been used as it covers the relevant constituency. However, data for Llanelli also cover areas outside of the constituency.

The data are provided in the following table.

Number of applications and initial awards received for budgeting loans (BLs) and crisis loans (CLs) over the last five years

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
BLs applications	30,870	27,570	27,870	29,980	28,520
BLs initial awards	23,070	20,950	19,640	21,110	20,340
CLs applications	25,250	48,740	63,140	71,570	58,420
CLs initial awards	18,320	34,330	46,840	55,370	46,480

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
2. Figures are based on initial awards and do not include changes made on review.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Disability Living Allowance: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Scotland currently receive disability living allowance for cancer. [73086]

Maria Miller: Information on the number of children in Glasgow local authority and Scotland receiving disability living allowance with malignant disease as their main disabling condition is contained in the following table.

Children (aged under 16) in receipt of disability living allowance in Scotland and Glasgow local authority with malignant disease as their main disabling condition, February 2011

	Number
Glasgow local authority	40
Scotland	290

Notes:

1. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
3. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

Employment Schemes: Offenders

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to make provision at the entry point to the Work programme for ex-offenders to allow them to be met on the day of their release from prison by work programme providers. [74542]

Chris Grayling: The Deputy Prime Minister announced on 16 August that, from March 2012, the Government intend to bring forward the entry point to the Work programme for prison leavers. Any prison leaver who claims jobseeker's allowance within 13 weeks of release will be mandated to the Work programme from the point of claim.

To enable mandatory referral to the Work programme immediately on release and provide a true "through the gates" service, Jobcentre Plus will build on current arrangements by bringing forward the jobseeker's allowance claim taking and processing of information in prison, which is currently carried out post-release. The decision to make a claim to benefit will be on a voluntary basis.

Employment: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers on the likely effect of his legislative proposals on welfare reform on the future employment of local authority employees in Scotland who administer housing benefits. [72010]

Chris Grayling: The Department of Work and Pensions keeps in regular contact with the Scottish Government on the subject of welfare reform at both ministerial and official levels. For example, universal credit programme officials are working jointly with both the Scottish Government and with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, as well as wider Scottish stakeholders, on the delivery implications of universal credit in Scotland. The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities are also both members of the Universal Credit Senior Stakeholder Board, which provides advice and guidance to the Programme Board. This enables Scotland to share knowledge, experience and insights to inform the thinking of the Board and to support design, development and implementation. The views and advice of the group are represented at the Programme Board to inform decision making on issues including the delivery model.

Universal credit will be delivered by DWP—drawing on the expertise of HM Revenue and Customs and local authorities. As DWP start to build the organisation to deliver universal credit, and we have yet to settle on the precise detail, and select the right people with the right capability it is likely some of those skills will exist within local authorities. We will therefore always look to include local authority staff in our thinking. In relation to the longer term delivery of universal credit, we will continue to work with colleagues in HMRC and Local Authorities to test new ways of working and impact ongoing delivery model design at both a national and local level. Our aim is to work collaboratively to enable the decision making process and deliver optimal value.

Homelessness: Cambridge

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the boundaries of the Cambridge Broad Rental Market Area on levels of *(a)* unemployment and *(b)* homelessness in Cambridge; [74569]

(2) what assessment he has made of the efficacy of Broad Rental Market Areas since the completion of the most recent reviews of their boundaries. [74570]

Steve Webb: Broad Rental Market Areas are an essential feature in calculating rates of housing benefit for tenants in the private rented sector. All English Broad Rental Market Areas were reviewed by the Valuation Office Agency rent officers over a two-year period ending in March 2011. On the whole we are satisfied that these current arrangements are working well and there are no current plans to assess the effect or the efficacy of the boundaries.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress the Government have made in implementing the proposals of Lord Young of Graffham's 2010 report on deregulation. [74797]

Chris Grayling: Regular updates on progress against the Common Sense, Common Safety recommendations, according to the Government body which is responsible for updating them, are published on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/health-and-safety/

A further updated progress report will be published later in the autumn.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's policy is on the provisions of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation Bill. [74798]

Chris Grayling: The Government note that the provisions of this Bill seek to repeal part of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995 so that there is no duty to report injuries causing incapacitation.

The Government have already accepted the recommendation in Common Sense, Common Safety for a re-examination of RIDDOR to determine whether this is the best approach to providing an accurate national picture of workplace accidents. In the meantime, the Government are already proposing to amend RIDDOR to extend, from three to seven days, the period of incapacitation before an injury to a person at work must be reported.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's policy is on the provisions of the Self-Employment (Risk Assessment Exemption) Bill. [74799]

Chris Grayling: The Government note that the provisions of the Bill seek to implement the recommendation in Common Sense, Common Safety to exempt the self-employed in low hazard businesses from risk assessments.

Currently those who employ five people or fewer do not need to record the outcome of their risk assessment, this already covers a large number of self-employed people. The Health and Safety Executive continues to emphasise this exemption in guidance such as Health and Safety Made Simple.

I have initiated an independent review of health and safety, led by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt. The review will consider the opportunities for reducing the burden of health and safety legislation on UK businesses, including the self-employed. The outcome of the review will be published later in the autumn.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's policy is on the provisions of the Low Hazard Workplaces (Risk Assessment Exemption) Bill. [74800]

Chris Grayling: The Government note that the provisions of the Bill seek to implement the recommendations in Common Sense, Common Safety for low hazard workplaces. I can report that implementation of the recommendations is progressing rapidly.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has developed online risk assessment tools for offices, shops and charity shops and has developed guidance such as Health and Safety Made Simple which sets out clearly what the basic health and safety requirements are. This includes making clear that those who employ fewer than five do not have to record their risk assessments.

Motability

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people will no longer have access to the Motability scheme in *(a)* Nottinghamshire and *(b)* England following changes in funding for the high rate disability living allowance. [73316]

Maria Miller: We have made it clear that we will not remove the disability living allowance mobility component from people in residential care in 2012. Instead, we will consider the needs of people living in residential care at the same time as all other disability living allowance recipients as we develop the personal independence payment.

We will ensure that when we introduce personal independence payment from April 2013 it treats disabled people fairly, regardless of their place of residence and does not diminish disabled people's ability to get out and about.

We estimate that there are around 12,000 Motability customers in Great Britain resident in care homes who have their care funded by the state. It is not possible to obtain reliable estimates of Motability customers below Great Britain level.

Pension Credit

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department expects to determine the claim for pension credit of Brian Tudor made on 16 July 2011. [73071]

Steve Webb: Mr Tudor's pension credit was awarded on 29 September 2011 and arrears for the period 20 July 2011 to 4 October 2011 were also issued on that date.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether people making a second claim for pension credit are required to fill in another copy of the application form by which they made their original claim. [74459]

Steve Webb: Entitlement to pension credit is dependant on the making of a claim. Where an award of pension credit has been made following a claim, and that award is ended, a further claim will be required before the benefit may be awarded again. This will enable up-to-date details of the claimant's circumstances to be established before a further award is made.

Pension credit may be claimed in writing or by telephone. It is not therefore always necessary for an individual to complete an application form themselves as the initial claim and any subsequent claims may be made by telephone. Where applying by telephone or in writing is difficult for the claimant, it may be possible to arrange a visit in order to take the claim.

Where a claim is made by telephone, but all the information needed to decide the claim is not provided at that time, that claim will be defective. In that case, the person making the claim will be given the opportunity to provide the necessary information, and if that information is provided within one month or a longer period as may be considered reasonable, the claim is treated as if it were made on the original date.

Pensioners: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Scotland were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* received the winter fuel payment in 2010-11; and how many such pensioners he estimate will be eligible for the winter fuel payment in 2011-12. [74188]

Steve Webb: The information is available in the document winter fuel payment recipients 2010-11 by age and gender and local authority. This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

We expect a similar number of payments to be made in Scotland for winter 2011-12.

Pensions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the implications for UK pension schemes of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals for the Southern District of New York's ruling of 19 September 2011 on Aguinda *v.* Chevron; and what plans he has to review pension providers' management of environmental, social and governance risks. [73950]

Steve Webb: The Aguinda *v.* Chevron case concerns a long dispute over the environmental damage caused by an oil company in Ecuador. On the 19 September 2011 a US court overturned a block on Ecuadoreans collecting damages totalling $18.2 billion (£11.5 billion) from Chevron over Amazon oil pollution.

The law already requires that an occupational pension scheme's 'Statement of Investment Principles' must include a declaration of the extent to which social, environmental and ethical considerations are taken into account in the scheme's investments. The statement must also include the scheme's policy (if any) in relation to the exercise of the rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments.

The Government fully support the highest standards of corporate governance and ethical behaviour and consider that such high standards can contribute to better company performance by helping a board discharge its duties in the best interests of shareholders. The Government continue to keep under review the role of pension scheme trustees in the governance process and, in particular, the adequacy of the rules that apply to the investment of scheme funds.

Pensions: Females

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proposals he plans to bring forward to offer financial assistance to women born between December 1953 and October 1954 on a transitional basis as a result of the proposed increase in the state pension age. [74524]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I gave on 13 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 47WS.

The Government have tabled an amendment to clause 1 of the Pensions Bill for Parliament to consider at the next stage of the Bill, scheduled for 18 October.

Stress

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on addressing work-related stress problems and if he will make a statement. [72813]

Chris Grayling: To help business address this issue appropriately, The Health and Safety Executive has developed the Management Standards for work related stress. The standards were the subject of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and build on an extensive evidence base. This voluntary approach, which is supported by further guidance and free on-line tools, has been taken up by many employers as a sensible and proportionate way to address the issue in the workplace.

Telephone Calls

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance he has issued to Work programme providers on the use of 084 and 087 prefix telephone numbers. [72249]

Chris Grayling: The underlying principles of the Work programme give providers the flexibility to design an innovative and personalised approach to helping participants into sustained employment. The providers are best placed to decide how to communicate with participants. If they choose to use 084 or 087 telephone numbers, they need to ensure that they adhere to the Advertising Standards Authority code of practice—this mandates marketers and communicators to advise customers of the potential cost of telephone calls whenever a non-geographical number is referenced.

DWP have been clear with providers that participants should not be worse off by virtue of attending the Work programme.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* charged and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 in each London borough in each of the last three years. [74308]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The number of cautions issued and persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the Metropolitan and City of London Police Force Areas for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 is provided in table 1. Table 2 shows the number of penalty notices issued in the Metropolitan and City of London Police Force Areas for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18.

Charging data are not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice; prosecution data are provided in lieu.

Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown at borough level.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Table 1: Persons cautioned[1,2] and proceeded against at magistrates courts for the sale of alcohol to persons under 18 years[3], London[4], 2008-10[5]

	2008	2009	2010
Cautioned			
London	—	1	—
England and Wales	28	39	32
Proceeded against[6]			
London	66	76	49
England and Wales	393	400	297

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Offences include:
Licensing Act 2003 section 146 Sale of alcohol to person under 18
section 147A Persistently selling alcohol to children

[4] Includes both Metropolitan police force area and City of London.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[6] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for sale of alcohol to person aged under 18 years, London[1], 2008-10[2]

	2008	2009	2010
London	260	345	234
England and Wales	2,824	3,002	2,098

[1] Includes both Metropolitan police force area and City of London.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Asylum: Commonwealth

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people from the Commonwealth were granted asylum on political grounds in each of the last 10 years; [74472]

(2) how many people from the Commonwealth were granted asylum on the grounds of being a victim of torture in each of the last 10 years. [74473]

Damian Green: While the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) holds information on the grounds for an asylum claim, this is not centrally recorded and to provide this information would require a manual case by case search at disproportionate cost.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of *(a)* the closure of the National Policing Improvement Agency and *(b)* other changes to the organisation of policing on her Department's ability to respond effectively to deaths of UK citizens abroad. [64228]

Nick Herbert: Work to decide on the future of the functions of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has been undertaken in close consultation with the police service. The Home Office will make an announcement regarding the future of NPIA functions shortly. We continue to assess the impact of all policing reforms on public safety and are confident that the policing reforms taken as a whole will not reduce our ability to respond effectively to deaths of UK citizens abroad.

Civil Disorder

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the damage caused to the London borough of Havering by recent civil disorder. [74220]

Nick Herbert: No assessment has been made by the Home Office of the damage caused in the London borough of Havering in light of the civil disorder in August 2011. Under the Riot Damages Act 1886, a police authority in England and Wales is liable to pay for damages to buildings and their contents when a riot has occurred. The responsibility to assess damages and compensation claims therefore rests with the police authority.

Criminal Records Bureau: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73505]

Lynne Featherstone: Details of Government Procurement Card transactions undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost due to manually redacting sensitive information.

Departmental Contracts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department holds with *(a)* Blue Light Global Solutions, *(b)* Capita, *(c)* Co sponsor and *(d)* Steria. [74456]

Damian Green: The Home Department including its executive agencies has no recorded contracts with *(a)* Blue Light Global Solutions or *(c)* Co sponsor. The Department holds one contract each with *(b)* Capita and *(d)* Steria.

Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press releases her Department has issued in the last 12 months. [74565]

Damian Green: The Home Office has issued 570 press releases in the last 12 months (12 October 2010-12 October 2011).

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for her Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate she has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for her Department in 2011-12. [73188]

Damian Green: The cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement in the Home Department including its Executive agencies is provided in the following table:

Financial year	*£*
2008-09	10,936,608
2009-10	13,006,559
2010-11	13,645,972
2011-12	12,838,698

Procurement staff has been interpreted to include contract managers engaged within procurement units.

The estimated cost of engaging consultants to undertake procurement for the Department in 2011-12 is £1,033,000.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many external training courses staff of her Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74380]

Damian Green: The information requested is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported to each country in each month since May 2010. [73338]

Damian Green: Given the size of the table, listing every country, I have placed a copy of the table, showing the monthly number of removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom, by country of destination between May 2010 and June 2011 in the Library of the House.

Data for July 2011 onwards are not yet available, but quarterly data for July to September 2011 will be published as part of the regular Home Office publication scheme on 24 November.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or who departed voluntarily from the UK within immigration statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in tables rv.01 to rv.08 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office science, research and statistics webpages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she is taking steps to ensure that Tier 2 visas remain accessible for the duration of a given year after the introduction of an annual quota. [73245]

Damian Green: The annual limit is divided into monthly allocations to ensure that places are available throughout the year.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to minimise the cost to small specialist colleges of applying for Tier 4 accreditation. [73339]

Damian Green: The Government are implementing a system of more rigorous inspection of those privately funded institutions that sponsor international students, carried out by independent bodies that already inspect the sectors with the highest levels of compliance. The fees charged reflect the costs of conducting a thorough and robust inspection, by an experienced specialist, of the quality of educational outcomes and provision. There are different levels of fees based on the size of the institution.

Entry Clearances: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Tier 1 and *(b)* Tier 2 visas were awarded to applicants resident in the Birmingham Ladywood constituency in the last 12 months. [73446]

Damian Green: The number of Tier 1 and Tier 2 applications granted to applicants currently residing in the Birmingham Ladywood constituency from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011 is as follows:

Tier 1: 4,958

Tier 2: 1,371

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which accreditation inspection body education academies in Northern Ireland apply in order to enrol international students for long-term courses of more than six months. [74806]

Damian Green: The Government are implementing a system of more rigorous inspection of those privately funded institutions that sponsor international students, carried out by independent bodies that already inspect the sectors with the highest levels of compliance. My officials are in discussion with the body with responsibility for the inspection of publicly funded education in Northern Ireland, the Education and Training Inspectorate, and will confirm shortly whether they will inspect privately funded providers in Northern Ireland. If they do not wish to do so, we shall invite the Independent Schools Inspectorate to extend their activity in respect of international students to cover providers in Northern Ireland.

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* legal and *(b)* illegal firearms have been seized by the police in each year since 1997. [74587]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 861W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, when she expects to receive a report from the Migration Advisory Committee on restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals. [75191]

Damian Green: I have asked the Migration Advisory Committee to report on this issue by the end of October.

Humberside Police

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding arrangements exist between the Humberside police and East Riding of Yorkshire council; what arrangements are in place to enable the local authority to have influence over policing decisions; and if she will make a statement. [71304]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 September 2011]*: Funding for community safety will remain with local authorities until police and crime commissioners are in place in 2012. Transitional arrangements for 2012-13 are being finalised. Local authorities will have a representative on the police and crime panels that will act as a key check and balance on police and crime commissioners.

Immigration

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that those who are refused leave to remain in the UK are removed promptly. [71074]

Damian Green: Individuals who have been refused leave to remain in the UK are expected to leave the country. The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) take active steps to promote voluntary return and assisted voluntary return and Refugee Action are also engaged by UKBA to increase the number of people taking up this option.

Where an individual chooses not to leave voluntarily, the UK Border Agency will continue to detain and enforce their removal at the earliest opportunity.

Should cases be delayed, for example, by further legal challenges, arranging re-documentation or consideration of extenuating circumstances, the agency actively progresses cases towards conclusion.

Immigration Controls

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on smart zones for processing pre-checked low-risk passengers at certain ports and airports. [73343]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is currently developing a number of new initiatives as part of a wider review of operating processes at ports, which make most effective and efficient use of technology and of our people.

Smart Zones are one part of this and operate by using information gathered through the e-Borders system to conduct enhanced watch list checks in advance of arrival. Passengers are then directed through a designated "Smart Zone" where the appropriate level of checks can be made on arrival. This has the potential to remove duplication of detailed checks at the border, thereby improving the passenger experience while simultaneously maintaining border security.

Smart Zone trials have taken place at Luton, Calais (coaches), Birmingham, Leeds/Bradford and Gatwick South.

The UK Border Agency is now engaging with port operators and carriers to design port specific solutions which enhance border security and represent best value for the taxpayer.

Internet: Offensive Material

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department is taking to tackle UK-based websites which promote *(a)* racism, *(b)* sectarianism and *(c)* bigotry; and if she will make a statement; [73610]

(2) if she will discuss with the Minister for Women and Equalities action against UK-based websites which encourage *(a)* religious conflict, *(b)* racism and *(c)* bigotry; and if she will make a statement. [73611]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 12 October 2011]*: We are clear that hatred and prejudice have no place in our society. Tackling hate crime is an issue that the Government take very seriously. We have a number of laws in place which make it a criminal offence to use threatening words or behaviour and or to display, publish or distribute any written material with intent to stir up hatred on the grounds of race, religion or sexual orientation. These laws apply equally to online material and our courts have convicted offenders for such offences.

We recognise however, there is also online content that, while not illegal, is considered to be either harmful or offensive. Such content raises issues which require a considered approach that balances freedom of expression with necessary and proportionate protections. We continue to work across Government and with industry representatives to seek practical solutions in responding adequately to offensive and criminal online material.

Knives

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been recovered by the police in each year since 1997. [74589]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Knives: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded crimes involved the use of a knife in each year since 1997. [74590]

Nick Herbert: Data for selected offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument have been collected by the Home Office since April 2007. From these data, it is not possible to identify which offences specifically involved the use of a knife.

In 2007-08, police forces in England and Wales recorded 25,548 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument for a select group of offences. These offences were: homicide, attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery.

In 2008-09, the offence coverage was expanded to also include actual bodily harm (ABH), threats to kill, sexual assault and rape offences. Therefore figures are not comparable with those offences recorded in 2007-08. In 2008-09, police forces in England and Wales recorded 36,347 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. The corresponding figure for 2009-10 was 33,774 offences.

A 2009 audit of how bottle and glass offences were recorded in the knife and sharp instrument data collection identified that some forces were including unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which should have been outside the scope of this collection. The 2008-09 and 2009-10 data above include these offences for four police forces. One of these forces, West Midlands police, subsequently changed its recording practice in April 2010 and now excludes these offences. As such, data for England and Wales for 2010-11 are not comparable to those for 2008-09 and 2009-10. In 2010-11; police forces in England and Wales recorded 32,714 offences involving a knife or a sharp instrument.

Comparable figures for 2008-09 to 2010-11 can be obtained only by excluding West Midlands from the total. On this basis, total figures for offences involving a knife or a sharp instrument in England and Wales (excluding West Midlands) are as follows: 2008-09—32,641 offences, 2009-10—30,549 offences and 2010-11—29,696 offences.

Further information on homicides involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument can be found in 'Homicides Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009-10' at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Offensive Weapons: Seized Articles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal and *(b)* air weapons have been seized by police in each year since 1997. [74592]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Passports: Forgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forged passports have been seized in each year since 1997. [74588]

Damian Green: The following table details the detections of false passports encountered by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of the Home Office (before 31 March 2007), the Border and Immigration Agency (between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008) and the UK Border Agency (since 1 April 2008).

	Number of detections
1997	4,411
1998	6,338
1999	5,516
2000	5,394
2001	7,320
2002	10,125
2003	9,546
2004	10,620
2005	7,712
2006	7,354
2007	6,939
2008	5,960

	Number of detections
2009	4,545
2010	3,872

Figures from 1997 to 2000 inclusive represent detections at the border only. Those from 2001 to 2010 inclusive detail detections at the border and those made in country by caseworking offices and enforcement officers. They do not include the numbers of inadequately documented passengers denied boarding by commercial carriers overseas working in conjunction with UK Immigration Liaison Officers and Managers (formerly Airline Liaison Officers) from the Risk and Liaison Overseas Network. Some of these passengers will have held false documents but precise figures for the numbers denied boarding for this reason are unavailable.

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the operation of section 153 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011; and if she will make a statement. [R] [74694]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

Section 153 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, which came into force on 15 September 2011, requires the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions to be given before an arrest warrant can be issued in a private prosecution for offences of universal jurisdiction. These are offences—including certain war crimes, torture, and hostage-taking—which can be prosecuted here even if committed outside the UK by someone who is not a British national. The Director of Public Prosecutions is well aware that speed is important in dealing with applications of this kind, and he has made clear that it is open to anyone who wants to pursue a crime of universal jurisdiction to engage with the Crown Prosecution Service as early as possible.

Police: Obesity

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police officers who are classified as obese. [74264]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Police: Termination of Employment

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police civilian staff have (i) been subject to disciplinary action and (ii) had their employment terminated due to breaches of protocol relating to Police National Computer checks in each of the last five years. [74305]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information. Individual police forces or their police authorities hold this information.

Polygamy

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has amended its guidelines for immigration officers which instruct them to allow polygamous families to live in the UK even if that sets up a polygamous marriage in the UK since her appointment. [73632]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* Guidance to UK Border Agency staff has not been amended on this issue since this Government came into power.

It has been the policy of successive governments to prevent the formation of polygamous households in this country. Section 2 of the Immigration Act 1988 and paragraphs 278 and 279 of the Immigration Rules (HC 395) are intended to achieve this policy.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Serious Organised Crime Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73503]

Nick Herbert: The Serious Organised Crime Agency did not use Government Procurement Cards during (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, and (iii) 2009-10.

UK Border Agency: Patrol Craft

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to review the number of vessels used by the UK Border Agency for coastline patrols. [74252]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency operates five offshore patrol vessels, known as cutters, to police the UK coast, territorial waters and adjacent seas to disrupt the trafficking of prohibited goods and illegal immigration. Departmental spending across the whole of government remains under close scrutiny and this encompasses all areas of the UK Border Agency including its maritime operations.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of coastline patrols by the UK Border Agency in 2010-11. [74253]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's expenditure for the cutter operations in 2010-11 was £14.583 million.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made following coastline patrols by the UK Border Agency in 2010-11. [74255]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's cutters routinely work in partnership with other law enforcement agencies both in the UK and overseas. In the majority of cases, it is other law enforcement agencies which carry out arrests in relation to operations in which the cutters are involved. Four arrests have been made by cutter crew.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what illegal goods were seized by the UK Border Agency as a result of coastline patrols in 2010-11; and what the monetary value was of such goods. [74256]

Damian Green: From the start of 2010 until the end of September 2011 UK Border Agency cutters have been involved in the seizure of approximately 5.5 tonnes of controlled drugs, approximately 980,000 smuggled cigarettes, 770 litres of smuggled spirits and have referred approximately 400 immigration issues for further inquiry. The estimated street level value of the drugs sized is in the region of £300 million and the estimated revenue protected through the seizure of smuggled excise goods is in the region of £300,000.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vessels the UK Border Agency uses to patrol the Scottish coastline; and how many staff are employed to crew such vessels. [74254]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's cutters are deployed flexibly to meet risk and in response to intelligence and are therefore not based in particular locations. Allocated patrol sectors are such that two of the five cutters have work areas which include the waters off the Scottish coast. Each cutter has a crew of 12 UK Border Agency officers.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Arrest Warrants

Mr Love: To ask the Attorney-General what discussions he has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on *(a)* the visit to the UK in October 2011 of the Leader of the Opposition in Israel and *(b)* the potential issue of an arrest warrant on her arrival; and if he will make a statement. [74146]

The Attorney-General: During the afternoon of 4 October 2011, an application was made to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer, QC, to exercise his consent pursuant to section 153 of the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011, for a private prosecutor to apply for a warrant to arrest Ms Tzipi Livni, the former Foreign Secretary in Israel for alleged offences relating to grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva convention in relation to military action in Gaza in December 2008.

I had no discussions with the director in respect of Ms Livni's visit in advance of the visit taking place. I was consulted by him in the evening of 5 October. It is normal practice for the director to consult with the Attorney-General in cases of particular sensitivity and was necessary in this case as the offence for which arrest was sought was one that required the consent of the Attorney-General for it to proceed to trial. The decision remained that of the director.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Attorney-General what the average hourly rate paid to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by the Law Officers' Departments was in 2010-11; what guidance the Law Officers' Departments use in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by the Law Officer's Departments in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72557]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is as follows:

Treasury Solicitor's Department Attorney General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (including also for these purposes the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate) does not keep records of the average hourly rates paid to all external solicitors and counsel. We are, however, able to offer the following information.

Hourly Rates

(a) The hourly rates paid to the solicitors who are part of the Litigation Catalogue are shown in the following table. The table shows the range of hourly rates for each level of experience across all regions and all areas of work.

Level of experience	*Hourly rate (£)*
Partner	55-235
Senior solicitor	55-215
Junior solicitor	50-165
Trainee solicitor/paralegal	40-153

The Department is expected to use solicitors from the Litigation Catalogue wherever possible. The use of solicitors from outside the framework is only permitted where there are no suitable solicitors available from the Litigation Catalogue. Government procurement procedures should be followed when engaging solicitors from outside of the Litigation Catalogue framework.

(b) The hourly rates for advocates on the Attorney-General's Panels of Counsel who are approved to undertake Government work are shown in the following table. The panel system is supplemented by the retention of two First Treasury Counsel to advise and represent the Government in particularly complex and sensitive matters. Their hourly rate is also shown in the following table.

Level of experience	*Hourly rate (£)*
Panel A (over 10 years)	120
Panel B (between 5 and 10 years)	100
Panel C (between 2 and 5 years)	[1]60
	[2]80
Regional Panel	[1]60
	[3]90
	[4]110
First Treasury Counsel	220

[1] If under five years' experience.
[2] If over five years' experience.
[3] Five to 10 years' experience.
[4] Over 10 years' experience.

The Department is required to seek the Attorney-General's nomination in any case in which it wishes to choose advocates who are not on the panel (for example, to use leading counsel). Fees in these cases are individually set but the nomination process ensures that a strong business case must be made for the engagement of higher charging counsel.

Use of external barristers and solicitors

A list of the external barristers and solicitors who have undertaken work for the Treasury Solicitor's Department and the Attorney-General's Office in 2010-11 has been placed in the Library of the House. Except where otherwise shown the amount paid was less than £25,000. This list does not include those barristers and solicitors engaged to provide legal services to other Government Departments, as they are engaged on behalf of those other Departments, which pay the relevant costs.

The Serious Fraud Office

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) pays the following for external counsel

£

Counsel type	*Hourly rate*	*Half-day rate*	*Full-day rate*
QC (more than five years' seniority)	185.00	325.00	650.00
QC (less than five years' seniority)	165.00	275.00	550.00
Panel A (more than 10 years' seniority)	105.00	185.00	370.00
Panel B (between five and 10 years' seniority)	85.00	145.00	290.00
Panel C (between one and five years' seniority)	75.00	125.00	250.00
Disclosure	55.00	125.00	250.00

The SFO has issued guidance and instructions on all aspects of engaging counsel to SFO staff. This includes directions on the appropriateness of half-day, day or hourly rates.

The SFO permanently publishes details of QCs and Counsel who have been appointed to be on a selection list by open competition:

http://www.sfo.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do-and-who-we-work-with/counsel.aspx

The SFO operates a three panel system for junior counsel, categorising them according to the number of years they have been practising. Appointment to the list was by open competition.

The SFO regularly publishes Counsel expenditure that exceeds £25,000 in accordance with the agreements made in 2010 relating to the Government commitment to greater transparency. This data can be found at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/financial-transactions-data-serious-fraud-office

The Crown Prosecution Service

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) remunerates self-employed advocates according to established fee scheme arrangements. Unless otherwise stated, the fee schemes apply equally to solicitors and barristers.

In respect of Crown court advocacy the CPS uses two fee schemes: a graduated fee scheme (GFS) for cases due to last up to 40 days at trial; and a very high cost case (VHCC) scheme for cases due to last 40 days or more.

GFS provides advocates with a fee based on a formula taking into account the offence type, advocate type, case outcome, length of trial, pages of prosecution evidence and number of witnesses. GFS does not provide hourly rate remuneration for the main hearing fee but there are some limited aspects of the scheme where remuneration is based on hours worked.

In respect of special preparation, wasted preparation (payments to counsel for preparation when they cannot continue with a case for a good reason, such as if they are appointed to the judiciary) and conference time the GFS hourly rates are:

	£ per hour
Queen's Counsel	62.50
Leading Junior	47.00
Junior alone	33.50

The VHCC scheme provides hourly rate remuneration for the advocate. VHCC casework is assigned to one of three categories, defined by set criteria.

The criteria, in broad terms, provides for the following three categories:

Category 1: Terrorism cases.

Category 2: Offences with a maximum sentence of 30 years and there are over 10,000 pages of served evidence.

Category 3: All other VHCCs.

The hourly rates are:

Counsel	*Category 1*	*Category 2*	*Category 3*
QC	180	140	110
Leading junior	140	110	90
Led junior	100	80	70
Junior alone	110	90	80
Second led junior*	90	70	60
Second led junior	70	55	50

The CPS also engages barristers and solicitors to undertake magistrates courts advocacy as agents on a sessional basis. Agent prosecutors are paid £125 for a half-day session or £200 for a full-day session. Higher daily rates are payable for "special fee" trials where exceptional preparation is required.

In-house CPS lawyers provide the vast majority of policy and casework related advice. However, if advice is required on a specialist area of law or policy then external legal advice can be commissioned. The decision to commission external advice is taken on a case-by-case basis and is not subject to written criteria.

The CPS engages solicitors firms to act in a range of civil matters including employment tribunal cases, contract negotiations and advice and land and property advice. During 2010-11 costs associated with these engagements were approximately £1.5 million.

The table detailing all of the barristers and solicitors who received payment for legal services in respect of Crown court and Higher Court casework and civil matters in 2010-11 has been placed in the Library of the House. It is not possible to state the precise total sum paid to each individual without checking the accuracy of the totals with the individuals concerned. To make these checks across over 4,000 individuals and solicitors firms would incur disproportionate cost.

However, since April 2010 details of payments made by the CPS to external barristers and solicitors in 2010-11 where the value of individual payments exceeded £25,000 are already published by the CPS on a monthly basis as part of the Government's transparency agenda. These can be found on the data.gov website at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/financial-transactions-data-ago-cps

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Attorney-General what progress the Law Officers' Departments have made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73845]

The Solicitor-General: Following the announcement of the Government's intention to eliminate such pre-qualification questionnaires, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate have not issued any low value procurement exercises with the requirement for the completion of a pre-qualification questionnaire.

In cases where the Law Officers' Departments have a procurement requirement for goods and services below £100,000 and where there is not a suitable pan-Government framework agreement in place, the Department tenders for the contract using the Government's 'Contracts Finder' website under an 'open' procedure. The open procedure does not involve the use of pre-qualification questionnaires.

Using an existing pan-Government framework contract means that suppliers on the framework will have already met any requisite pre-qualification requirements.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73115]

The Attorney-General: Expenditure by the Law Officers' Departments on new furnishings during the last financial year is outlined in the following table.

Recorded spend on new furnishings, financial year 2010-11

Department	*£*
Crown Prosecution Service	1,538,722
Treasury Solicitor's Department[1]	[2]33,000
Serious Fraud Office	0

[1] The Treasury Solicitor's data also covers expenditure for the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

[2] The figure provided is the recorded expenditure on furniture, fixtures and fittings. It is not possible to separate spend on furniture from fixtures and fittings.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Attorney-General what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Serious Fraud Office using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73499]

The Attorney-General: Reports detailing individual Government Procurement Card transactions undertaken by the Serious Fraud Office for the years 2009, 2010 and up to July 2011 are available on the SFO website at:

http://www.sfo.gov.uk/media/179831/2011-55.doc

Details of transactions prior to these dates could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The Department does not hold level 3 or enhanced transaction entry data centrally for individual transactions.

Hillsborough Disaster

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Attorney-General (1) what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the unredacted release of the Hillsborough Cabinet minutes since his appointment; [74299]

(2) when he last met the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss the release of unredacted Government files relating to the 1989 Hillsborough disaster. [74719]

The Attorney-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on this matter by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on 13 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 506W.

Polygamy

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Attorney-General how many cases of polygamy have been *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last three years. [73966]

The Attorney-General: Polygamy is not recognised as a specific offence by the criminal law. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not maintain a record of the number of defendants charged with or convicted of bigamy rather than polygamy (which is a specific offence under the criminal law in England and Wales). This information is held on individual case files, and may be retrieved only by locating and examining every relevant file in each CPS office in England and Wales, which would incur a disproportionate cost

The CPS central records show the number of offences of bigamy charged under section 57 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and in respect of which a prosecution was commenced in magistrates courts. The figures for the last three years are contained in the following table:

Offences charged and reaching a first hearing in magistrates courts

		2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (57)	Bigamy	22	29	43

Notes:

1. Offences recorded in the MIS Offences Universe are those which reached a hearing. There is no indication of final outcome or if the charged offence was the substantive charge at finalisation.
2. Data relate to the number of offences recorded in magistrates courts, in which a prosecution commenced, as recorded on the CMS.
3. Offences data are not held by defendant or outcome.
4. Offences recorded in the Offences Universe of the MIS are those which were charged at any time and reached at least one hearing. This offence will remain recorded whether or not that offence was proceeded with and there is no indication of final outcome or if the offence charged was the substantive offence at finalisation.
5. CPS data are available through its Case Management System (CMS) and associated Management Information System (MIS). The CPS collects data to assist in the effective management of its prosecution functions. The CPS does not collect data which constitute official statistics as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. These data have been drawn from the CPS's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the CPS.
6. The official statistics relating to crime and policing are maintained by the Home Office and the official statistics relating to sentencing, criminal court proceedings, offenders brought to justice, the courts and the judiciary are maintained by the Ministry of Justice.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Attorney-General how many people have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted under the provisions of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006. [74072]

The Attorney-General *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The provisions of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 amended section 29 of the Public Order Act 1986 to create offences of stirring up hatred against persons on religious grounds.

All prosecutions for offences under section 29 of the Public Order Act as amended by the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 are conducted by the Crown Prosecution Service's special crime and counter-terrorism division. Figures held by them for the last three years are summarised in the following table and refer to the year in which the prosecution was commenced.

	Number charged	*Convictions*
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	1	0
2010-11	3	1

JUSTICE

Public Bodies Reform

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of each response to his Department's consultation on the public bodies included in the provisions of the Public Bodies Bill immediately following the closure of the consultation. [73733]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice consultation on reforms proposed in the Public Bodies Bill closed on 11 October. The Department intends to publish its response to the consultation by the end of this year. As required by the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation, the consultation response will provide a summary of who responded to the consultation exercise and a summary of the views expressed in response to each question.

In addition, section 11 of the Public Bodies Bill requires a summary of representations received in the consultation to be contained within the explanatory document that must accompany each order laid by Ministers when using the powers provided by the Bill.

Details of the consultation can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-public-bodies.htm

Administration of Justice: Ex-servicemen

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether staff working in *(a)* prisons, *(b)* probation services and *(c)* the courts receive mandatory training on working with former soldiers. [75046]

Mr Blunt: Prison, probation and courts staff are trained to work effectively with offenders from all backgrounds. There is no specific mandatory training concerned with working with former soldiers.

Within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), The Working With Veterans In Custody guidance, which was published in February 2010, provides staff with information and offers links to sources of support available to veteran offenders. This guide is currently being updated to include information for staff working with offenders in the community.

All staff working within Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) receive mandatory customer service training as part of their induction which includes material on how customers should be dealt with regardless of their background.

Civil Disorder

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many and what proportion of cases involving under-18-year-olds imprisoned on remand as a result of public disorder in August 2011 was a bail package not presented to the court. [73814]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not available as central data systems do not record this. However, youth offending teams should, as a matter of course, always provide a bail package to the court which will enable the child to be remanded on bail in cases where there is a risk that bail may be refused. Bail packages are an alternative to secure remand and ensure that the young person receives the necessary support in a community setting.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many under-18-year-olds convicted of an offence following the public disorder in August 2011 were remanded into custody without a youth offending team officer being present in court. [73815]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not available as it is not recorded centrally. National Standards for Youth Justice Services require youth offending teams to attend court when any under-18 is being considered for bail or remand including at weekends.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of people aged under-18 years who were imprisoned on remand in connection with the public disorder of August 2011 had legal representation in court. [73819]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not available as it is not recorded centrally. All under-18s are entitled lo legal representation in court through the legal aid scheme if they pass the "interests of justice" test. All defendants, including under-18s in the Crown court are automatically deemed to pass the interests of justice test and, in practice, the majority of under-18s appearing before the youth or magistrates court do pass this test. For the purposes of legal representation, under-18s appearing before all criminal courts are automatically deemed to pass the means test.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those arrested for offences connected with the recent public disorder had previously served a sentence of imprisonment under 12 months. [74161]

Mr Blunt: The latest published information on the criminal history of individuals appearing before the courts in relation to the public disorder of 6 to 9 August 2011 showed that 26% had at least one previous immediate custodial sentence. When looking only at sentences of less than 12 months, 22% had previously been sentenced to at least one immediate custodial sentence of less than 12 months.

Data on the criminal history of those arrested but not appearing before the courts is not available.

More detail on the criminal history of individuals appearing before the court in relation to the public disorder can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11.htm

and updated statistics will be published on 24 October 2011.

As with any large scale recording system the Police National Computer is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1215W, on civil disorder: compensation, for what reasons details of the compensation orders issued were not included in the statistics disclosed; and if he will make a statement; [74741]

(2) how many compensation orders were issued by courts *(a)* in and *(b)* outside London in relation to public disorder in August 2011; and what the total monetary value was of such compensation orders. [74742]

Mr Blunt: The information published on 15 September was compiled from statistics on offenders brought before the courts for offences related to the public disorder and reported to Justice Statistics Analytical Services by midday on 12 September. However, following a finding of guilt, the sentencing data reported does not go down to the level whereby defendants have also been ordered to pay compensation to their victims.

A further publication is planned for the last week of October which will cover wider socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, including ethnicity information, but will not include compensation orders.

Detail beyond the primary sentence is not available in the data being reported by the courts.

Community Orders: Drugs

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were found to be in possession of drugs on unpaid work sites between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011. [73418]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service maintains a record of incidents which occur on unpaid work sites. This data is not able to identify incidents which may have involved the illegal possession of drugs. If an offender was suspected of being in possession of drugs while undertaking unpaid work the police would be asked to attend the work site.

Compensation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effects of the proposed abolition of success fees and non-recoverability of after-the-event insurance premiums on the ability of claimant law firms to take on human rights litigation against multinational companies based in the UK. [73690]

Mr Djanogly: I should clarify that claims can be brought in England and Wales alleging corporate harm in foreign jurisdictions. These are claims for damages in tort or contract, rather than claims under the Human Rights Act or European convention on human rights.

Overseas victims of alleged corporate harm by UK multinational companies are currently able to bring civil claims in the UK where appropriate, and this will continue to be the case following implementation of our reforms to civil litigation funding and costs. Conditional fee agreements (CFAs) will continue, although any success fee will no longer be recoverable from the losing party. We are also proposing to allow damage-based agreements (DBAs) in civil litigation. CFAs and DBAs will be available for claims for corporate harm. DBAs may be particularly suitable for such claims since legal representatives may recover their fees as a percentage of the damages awarded to each successful claimant.

The Government have published a final impact assessment alongside the Government response paper 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response', column 8041, 29 March 2011, available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/jackson-review.htm

This impact assessment identifies potential impacts on individuals, groups and businesses.

Coroners

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the composition will be of the proposed Ministerial Board to oversee non-judicial aspects of the services provided by coroners. [73168]

Mr Djanogly: The full composition of the Ministerial Board has yet to be finalised. It is likely to include representatives of those responsible for delivering coroner services, independent members and representatives of the new Bereaved Organisations Committee that will support the board.

Courts: Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the level was of capital expenditure on magistrates and Crown courts in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much he plans to allocate for these purposes in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14. [73871]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts Service was formed on 1 April 2006. Prior to this magistrates courts were the responsibility of local authorities and information relating to capital expenditure is not held centrally. Capital expenditure on Crown courts for 1997-98 is not available.

In order to offer greater flexibility and improve the efficiency of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service—HMCTS—Estate, there are numerous court buildings which are equipped to handle more than one jurisdiction. Therefore, in cases where there is more than one court located within a building, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of capital expenditure for each court.

The following table shows the 2010-11 capital expenditure for magistrates courts, Crown courts and combined courts where there is a magistrates or Crown court on site:

	2010-11 outturn (£ million)
Magistrates courts	100.1
Crown courts	25.5
Combined courts	14.7
	140.4

The following table the latest budgeted HMCTS capital spend for 2011-12:

	2011-12 budget (£ million)
Magistrates courts	64.2
Crown Courts	14.1
Combined courts	13.9
	92.2

The capital budgets for 2012-13 and 2013-14 have not yet been allocated and therefore it is not possible to provide a breakdown of proposed expenditure.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in the (i) current and (ii) next financial year; and what the cost will be of each such project. [74382]

Mr Blunt: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested as soon as possible.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73207]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73669]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The only expenditure incurred for events during this period was by me, as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on the following events:

	Event	*Cost (£)*
18 October 2010	Lord Mayor Elect ceremony	340.00
21 March 2011	Judiciary and European Court Justice Dinner, hosted by Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice	3,213.97
3 October 2011	Lord Chancellor's breakfast—Opening of the legal year	13,597.80
Total		17,151.77

All hospitality is closely scrutinised and carefully monitored to ensure good value for taxpayers' money and that it stays within the appropriate rules and guidelines.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [75004]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) subscribes to many different periodicals and professional magazines (hard copy and online via individual purchase and subscription) for both staff and the judiciary in order to keep up to date with the latest news and thinking in a wide range of professional areas, including law, corporate services and job specific roles.

Accounting systems for the MoJ, Her Majesty's Courts Service, Tribunals Service and Office of the Public Guardian do not differentiate between soft and hard copy purchases. The same account codes also include some books and it would incur disproportionate costs to tease these separate costs out. The natural account codes for the National Offender Management Service do not differentiate between purchased publications and publications created for their organisation.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73186]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The cost of civil servants to undertake procurement for the Ministry of Justice is detailed in the following table. The cost shown for 2011-12 is a forecast. There are no plans to engage consultants to undertake procurement in 2011-12.

Civil servants—estimated cost

	£
2008-09	8,270,961
2009-10	7,686,376
2010-11	8,815,756
2011-12	10,575,896

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74213]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Details of contracts entered into by the Ministry of Justice and its predecessors going back to 1990 are not held centrally. To obtain the information in the format required would necessitate approaching a number of Departments and their agencies. We estimate that to undertake this exercise would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what savings to the public purse will be realised as a result of contracting out HM Prison *(a)* Featherstone II, *(b)* Buckley Hall, *(c)* Birmingham and *(d)* Wellingborough in each of the remaining years of the comprehensive spending review period; [73778]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of indexation for the contract for running HM Prison *(a)* Birmingham and *(b)* Featherstone II in each remaining year of the comprehensive spending review period. [73779]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

(1) The information requested is provided in the following table. As Featherstone II is a new build prison and therefore currently not in operation, the savings values stated are calculated as the difference between the expected price outlined in the original business case and the price submitted by the successful contractor during competition.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	£ *2014-2015*
Birmingham	519,179	1,155,053	1,421,814	1,772,822
Buckley Hall	468,061	1,193,044	1,481,891	1,541,229
Featherstone II	—	5,396,211	12,718,071	13,046,169

The services commencement date for HMP Featherstone II is April 2012 therefore there are no savings to be reported in 2011-12.

The Ministry of Justice withdrew HMP Wellingborough from the competition in autumn 2010 therefore this portion of the parliamentary question is not applicable.

(2) The information requested is provided in the following table.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	£ *2014-15*
Birmingham				
Indexation	0	436,875	1,348,655	2,310,714
Featherstone II				
Indexation	—	0	657,474	1,345,573

Bids for the prison competition were submitted on a price year one basis and then evaluated on a net present cost basis. Indexation is included in the contract to take account of the inflationary impact upon costs. Elements of the contract are not indexed, staff costs are up-rated in line with the average weekly earnings index, and non-staff costs are up-rated in line with the retail prices index.

This indexation rate broadly reflects the inflationary pressure on public sector prisons.

The savings figures quoted for each of the prisons already take account of indexation.

The services commencement date for HMP Featherstone II is April 2012 therefore there is no cost of indexation until 2013-14.

Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Prison Service bids unit and *(c)* its other agencies and non-departmental bodies spent on (i) staff, (ii) travel and subsistence and (iii) other costs in respect of the competition to run HM Prison (A) Featherstone 2, (B) Buckley Hall, (C) Birmingham and (D) Wellingborough. [73777]

Mr Blunt: I will write to the right hon. Member with details of actual aggregate spending relating to the competitions held for HMP Birmingham, HMP Buckley Hall, HMP Doncaster, HMP Featherstone 2 and HMP Wellingborough, The Ministry of Justice does not hold the requested information for each of the individual competitions for the five establishments.

Estimated or forecast spending on the prison competitions for HMP Birmingham, HMP Buckley Hall, HMP Doncaster, HMP Featherstone 2 and HMP

Wellingborough, together with underpinning caveats and assumptions, is detailed as follows. All costs are given to two significant figures.

(A) For their contribution to the work on the competitions for the five prisons named above, we forecast that the combined spending of Ministry of Justice Procurement and Ministry of Justice ICT will be:

(i) £1,070,000 on staff;

(ii) £0 on travel and subsistence; and

(iii) £1,600,000 on other costs.

Operational input to supplier dialogue and evaluation phase have been excluded from this cost model.

(B) The overall agreed value of the Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit for prison competitions was £1,100,000.

An agreed value was used in bidding, as the cost of the Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit was not identified separately by expenditure or by Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit itself within the accounts. No local cost tracking was undertaken. Delays in the bidding process added costs to the Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit, although the work undertaken could not be directly attributed to the above bids.

Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit costs for HMP Wellingborough and HMP Doncaster ceased when MoJ Procurement stopped developing the relevant bids. Work on HMP Birmingham and HMP Featherstone 2 stopped when the announcement of contract award for these two prisons was made on 31 March 2011. Some support costs, which have not been quantified, have been incurred in the mobilisation phase at HMP Buckley Hall.

(C) For their contribution to the work on the competitions for the five prisons named above, we forecast that the combined spending of NOMS Business and Service Development Group, Estates, and NOMS ICT will be:

(i) £1,300,000 on staff;

(ii) £70,000 on travel and subsistence; and

(iii) £700,000 on other costs.

Operational input to supplier dialogue and evaluation phase have been excluded from this cost model.

Some teams in NOMS were deployed to these prison competitions from other work, including during evaluation stages in the procurement phase. The Department has not accounted for this potential opportunity cost.

Driving Offences

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 163W, on driving offences: speed limits, how many people with 12 points on their driving licence have been given exemptions from a driving ban in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [74571]

Mr Blunt: Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the Court Proceedings Database does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. Information is not held on whether drivers incurring or exceeding 12 penalty points were given an exemption from a driving ban.

Drugs: Convictions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 839W, on drugs: convictions, how many of those receiving custodial sentences for each category of offence were *(a)* first offenders and *(b)* repeat offenders. [74105]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows, for the years 2007 to 2010, for drug offences that resulted in immediate custodial sentences, the proportion of each category involving offenders with no previous criminal history and the proportion involving offenders with a record of a previous reprimand, warning, caution or conviction.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures presented here are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Proportion of offenders receiving an immediate custodial sentence for a drug offence who were either first time offenders or repeat offenders, 2007-10, England and Wales

	Percentage of offenders receiving an immediate custodial sentence	
Drug offence	*First time offender*	*Repeat offender*
2007		
Possession: class A	3.0	97.0
Possession: class B	0.0	100.0
Possession: class C	1.5	98.5
Possession: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Possession: cannabis	2.1	97.9
Possession with intent to supply: class A	11.5	88.5
Possession with intent to supply: class B	6.6	93.4
Possession with intent to supply: class C	6.8	93.2
Possession with intent to supply: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Possession with intent to supply: cannabis	14.3	85.7
Supply: class A	10.2	89.8
Supply: class B	[1]—	[1]—
Supply: class C	19.6	80.4
Supply: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Supply: cannabis	18.2	81.8
2008		
Possession: class A	2.1	97.9
Possession: class B	1.6	98.4
Possession: class C	4.2	95.8
Possession: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Possession: cannabis	2.1	97.9
Possession with intent to supply: class A	11.2	88.8
Possession with intent to supply: class B	3.3	96.7
Possession with intent to supply: class C	11.3	88.7

Proportion of offenders receiving an immediate custodial sentence for a drug offence who were either first time offenders or repeat offenders, 2007-10, England and Wales

	Percentage of offenders receiving an immediate custodial sentence	
Drug offence	*First time offender*	*Repeat offender*
Possession with intent to supply: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Possession with intent to supply: cannabis	12.0	88.0
Supply: class A	9.6	90.4
Supply: class B	8.8	91.2
Supply: class C	18.6	81.4
Supply: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Supply: cannabis	16.4	83.6
2009		
Possession: class A	1.6	98.4
Possession: class B	2.2	97.8
Possession: class C	8.5	91.5
Possession: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Possession: cannabis	1.3	98.7
Possession with intent to supply: class A	10.6	89.4
Possession with intent to supply: class B	6.3	93.7
Possession with intent to supply: class C	3.9	96.1
Possession with intent to supply: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Possession with intent to supply: cannabis	11.4	88.6
Supply: class A	8.3	91.7
Supply: class B	11.7	88.3
Supply: class C	15.3	84.7
Supply: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Supply: cannabis	16.9	83.1
2010		
Possession: class A	1.3	98.7
Possession: class B	0.6	99.4
Possession: class C	0.0	100.0
Possession: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Possession: cannabis	2.6	97.4
Possession with intent to supply: class A	10.0	90.0
Possession with intent to supply: class B	6.2	93.8
Possession with intent to supply: class C	5.7	94.3
Possession with intent to supply: class unspecified	[1]—	[1]—
Possession with intent to supply: cannabis	8.8	91.2
Supply: class A	7.9	92.1
Supply: class B	9.9	90.1
Supply: class C	18.0	82.0
Supply: class unspecified	28.3	71.7
Supply: cannabis	11.4	88.6

[1] Percentages are not shown where the total number of convictions is small (less than 50).

Fines

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines issued in the most recent year for which figures are available were *(a)* paid in full within one year, *(b)* paid in part and *(c)* remain unpaid in each of the smallest geographic areas in England for which data are maintained. [74663]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service systems do not currently identify how many fines that were imposed in a particular year were paid in that period or remain outstanding at the end of the year. This data could be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of all fine accounts.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73832]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: As of September 2011 the Ministry of Justice eProcurement sourcing system has been updated to eliminate pre-qualification questions for procurements with a value of less than £100,000.

Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the nationality was of each suspected victim of trafficking referred to the Trafficking Victim Support Scheme run by the Salvation Army between *(a)* 15 to 31 July and *(b)* 1 to 31 August 2011; in which region each of the suspected victims was found; and which agency referred each case to the scheme. [73426]

Crispin Blunt: The tables below set out the information requested.

(a) 15 to 31 July 2011

Nationality	*Region*	*Referring Organisation*
Vietnamese	East Midlands	Solicitors
Lithuanian	South East	Police
Kenyan	South East	Police
Togolese	South East	Charity
Romanian	South East	Police
Romanian	South East	Charity
Nigerian	East	UKBA
Albanian	Wales	Solicitors
Nigerian	South East	HM Prison Service
Indian	West Midlands	Police
Lithuanian	South East	Police
Lithuanian	South East	Police
Romanian	South East	Police
Indonesian	West Midlands	Police

(b) 1 to 31 August 2011

Nationality	*Region*	*Referring Organisation*
Ugandan	South East	Solicitors
Romanian	South	Police
Czech	Yorkshire	Police
Ugandan	South East	Police

(b) 1 to 31 August 2011

Nationality	*Region*	*Referring Organisation*
Chinese	South East	Police
Polish	South East	Police
Nigerian	South East	Solicitors
Nigerian	North East	Charity
Romanian	West Midlands	Charity
Romanian	West Midlands	Charity
Slovakian	Yorkshire	Charity
Slovakian	Yorkshire	Charity
Slovakian	Yorkshire	Charity
Slovakian	Yorkshire	Charity
Philippine	South East	Police
Ghanaian	South East	Self-referral
Nigerian	South East	Self-referral
Thai	South East	Police
Ugandan	South East	Solicitors
Benin	West Midlands	Charity
Nigerian	South East	Solicitors
Sierra Leone	South East	Charity
Ethiopian	West Midlands	Social Services
Nigerian	South East	Charity
Nigerian	South East	Social Services
Rwandan/ Ugandan	South East	Charity
Czech	North West	Police
Czech	North West	Police
Czech	North West	Police
Hungarian	South East	Charity
Russian	South East	UKBA
Polish	Yorkshire	Charity
Indonesian	South East	UKBA
Lithuanian	North West	Police
Lithuanian	North West	Police
Romanian	South East	Police

Legal Aid Scheme

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims were brought against public authorities using legal aid in each of the last five years. [73460]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Legal Aid Scheme: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal aid matter starts there were in *(a)* social welfare law, *(b)* family law, *(c)* clinical negligence and *(d)* immigration law in (i) West Ham constituency and (ii) the London borough of Newham in each of the last five years. [73457]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. Further breakdown by category of law per constituency is not available.

The following tables show the numbers of acts of assistance delivered by legal aid providers with postcodes falling within the West Ham constituency separately and in the London borough of Newham as a whole, which comprises the West Ham and East Ham constituencies in the last four years. This information represents the nearest matches of the LSC's available data to the information requested. The figures for 2010-11 are not yet available.

West Ham constituency

	Crime lower claims	*Legal help new matter starts*	*Civil representation certificates issues*	*Crime higher cases*
2006-07	7,101	4,169	519	626
2007-08	6,078	4,599	538	629
2008-09	6,749	3,480	545	723
2009-10	8,133	1,528	409	990

London borough of Newham (comprising West Ham and East Ham constituencies)

	Crime lower claims	*Legal help new matter starts*	*Civil representation certificates issues*	*Crime higher cases*
2006-07	9,301	9,339	1,058	857
2007-08	8.6S2	9.064	1.025	877
2008-09	9,714	9,224	1,119	1,127
2009-10	9,933	6,030	1,133	1,214

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many organisations in *(a)* West Ham constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Newham are under contract to the Legal Services Commission to provide legal aid services; how many legal aid cases those practices have taken on during the current contract period; and what the monetary value of each such contract is. [73458]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. Based on the postcode of legal aid providers recorded in the LSC's systems, there are currently 28 active civil and 22 active crime providers with offices in the West Ham and East Ham constituencies.

The information in the following table represents the nearest matches of the LSC's available data to the information requested. The figures for 2010-2011, number of cases during the current contract period and claims are not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

London borough of Newham (comprising West Ham and East Ham constituencies)

	Crime lower claims	*Legal help new matter starts*	*Civil representation certificates issues*	*Crime higher cases*
2009-10	9,104	6,030	1,133	1,214

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims against *(a)* local authorities in London and *(b)* Newham London borough council were brought using legal aid in each of the last five years. [73459]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Offences Against Children

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the implementation obligations in respect of each article of the draft EU Directive on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children will be met by existing domestic law and practice. [73032]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government considered that the Council agreed text of the EU directive on combating child sexual abuse and exploitation and child pornography, which was the subject of a debate in the House on 26 April 2011, would not have required changes to existing legislation and practice in England and Wales. The final text of this directive however has still to be agreed as changes were made to the text over the course of negotiations with the European Parliament. An article-by-article account of the plans for implementation across the UK will be provided once the text is finally agreed.

Offenders: Speech Therapy

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* young and *(b)* adult offenders are recorded as having speech language and communication needs; and at what stage in the incarceration process each category of offender is assessed for any such needs. [74627]

Mr Blunt: The number of young and adult offenders with speech, language or communication needs is not recorded.

Education providers under contract with the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) assess the learning levels and needs of young people within the first seven days of entering custody.

A health needs assessment is undertaken when individuals enter prison to assist in identifying speech, language and communications needs.

Office of the Chief Coroner

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what costs his Department has incurred in relation to the Office of the Chief Coroner in each of the last four financial years. [73689]

Mr Djanogly: The Office of the Chief Coroner has not been established, therefore the Ministry of Justice incurred has incurred no costs relating to the office in any of the last four financial years.

Prison Accommodation

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours per week *(a)* young offenders and *(b)* adult prisoners at Parc prison, Bridgend spent in their cells in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [74117]

Mr Blunt: As a measure of safety and decency in prisons, the National Offender Management Service collects data on the average hours per week day that prisoners are unlocked. By subtracting the average hours unlocked from the 24 hours in a day it is possible to estimate hours spent locked in cell. It should be noted that the latter will include hours when prisoners are asleep.

The information is not available in the format requested. Data cannot be broken down by prisoner type for HMP and YOI Parc. Figures for time locked in cell are set out in the following table for HMP and YOI Parc for the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Estimated average time locked in cell

	Hours per prisoner per day
2005-06	13.7
2006-07	14.3
2007-08	14.1
2008-09	14.7
2009-10	14.8
2010-11	14.6

Prisoners : Education

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours per week *(a)* young offenders and *(b)* adult prisoners at Parc prison, Bridgend spent on (i) work-based activities and (ii) education-based activities in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [74118]

Mr Blunt: The information is not available in the format requested. Data cannot be broken down by prisoner type for HMP and YOI Parc. The data available are for the whole of HMP and YOI Parc's population. The following table shows the average number of hours per week per prisoner spent on work-based and education-based activities for the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 at HMP and YOI Parc.

	Education	*Work*
2005-06	8.19	19.61
2006-07	7.82	20.98
2007-08	7.43	20.88
2008-09	6.64	17.58
2009-10	6.57	16.83
2010-11	7.81	15.11

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the total cost to the public purse of the preparation of the competitions for *(a)* HMP Featherstone 2, *(b)* Buckley Hall, *(c)* Birmingham and *(d)* Wellingborough. [74502]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to separate the cost of preparing for the prison competitions for HMP Birmingham, HMP Buckley Hall, HMP Doncaster, HMP Featherstone 2, and HMP Wellingborough from the total costs associated with the competitions for those five prisons.

For estimates of aggregated costs associated with the above prison competitions, I refer the right hon. Member to my response to his question of today.

Estimated or forecast spending on the prison competitions for HMP Birmingham, HMP Buckley Hall, HMP Doncaster, HMP Featherstone 2 and HMP Wellingborough, together with underpinning caveats and assumptions, is detailed as follows. All costs are given to two significant figures.

(A) For their contribution to the work on the competitions for the five prisons named above, we forecast that the combined spending of Ministry of Justice Procurement and Ministry of Justice ICT will be:

(i) £1,070,000 on staff;

(ii) £0 on travel and subsistence; and

(iii) £1,600,000 on other costs.

Operational input to supplier dialogue and evaluation phase have been excluded from this cost model.

(B) The overall agreed value of the Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit for prison competitions was £1,100,000.

An agreed value was used in bidding, as the cost of the Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit was not identified separately by expenditure or by Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit itself within the accounts. No local cost tracking was undertaken. Delays in the bidding process added costs to the Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit, although the work undertaken could not be directly attributed to the above bids.

Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit costs for HMP Wellingborough and HMP Doncaster ceased when MoJ Procurement stopped developing the relevant bids. Work on HMP Birmingham and HMP Featherstone 2 stopped when the announcement of contract award for these two prisons was made on 31 March 2011. Some support costs, which have not been quantified, have been incurred in the mobilisation phase at HMP Buckley Hall.

(C) For their contribution to the work on the competitions for the five prisons named above, we forecast that the combined spending of NOMS Business and Service Development Group, Estates, and NOMS ICT will be:

(i) £1,300,000 on staff;

(ii) £70,000 on travel and subsistence;

(iii) £700,000 on other costs.

Operational input to supplier dialogue and evaluation phase have been excluded from this cost model.

Some teams in NOMS were deployed to these prison competitions from other work, including during evaluation stages in the procurement phase. The Department has not accounted for this potential opportunity cost.

Prisons: Manpower

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of prison officers to *(a)* young offenders and *(b)* adult prisoners was in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [74119]

Mr Blunt: Information on the ratio of officers to young offenders and officers to adult prisoners since 31 March 2005 is provided in the following table. The ratios are calculated as the number of prisoners to each officer.

It is not possible to disaggregate staffing information for sites that hold both young offenders and adults. For the purposes of calculating the ratios such sites are allocated as either young offender or adult depending on largest number of prisoners of each type held.

Ratio of prisoners to officers, end of March 2005 to 2011

	Young offenders	Adult prisoners
2005	2.1	2.9
2006	2.2	3.0
2007	2.2	3.0
2008	2.1	3.1
2009	2.0	3.1
2010	2.1	3.2
2011	2.1	3.3

Note:

1. Staffing information includes prison officers, senior officers and principal officers and their equivalent in private sector establishments.

2. Staffing information was not available for Ashfield, Doncaster, Dovegate, Forest Bank and Lowdham Grange prior to 2008. These establishments have been excluded from ratio calculations prior to 2008.

Prisons: Private Sector

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether operational staff in private sector prisons are barred from taking strike action under section 127 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; whether such staff have access to the Prison Service Pay Review Body; and whether any other compensatory measure is available to prison staff in the private sector; [73769]

(2) whether staff in prisons operated by the private sector have a right to strike; and what arrangements are in place to operate such prisons in the event of such industrial action. [73846]

Mr Blunt: The restrictions placed on industrial action by prison officers by section 127 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (as amended) apply in both public sector and privately contracted prisons. This means that prison custody officers in private sector prisons are unable to take strike action.

The Prison Service Pay Review Body makes recommendations to the Government for the pay of a defined group of public sector Prison Service staff. Private contractors have separate pay determination processes for their staff. Any compensatory measures for the restriction of staff's ability to strike would be at the discretion of the private contractor.

Contingency arrangements for operating privately-run prisons in the event of unlawful industrial action are the responsibility of the private contractor.

Probation: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was of each probation trust in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; and what budget he has set for (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14. [73870]

Mr Blunt: Probation Trusts were put in place between 2008 and 2010, following the implementation of the Offender Management Act 2007 and replaced the former Probation Boards. Financial year 2007-08 falls prior to the existence of Trusts. Figures for Boards and Trusts in financial years prior to April 2010 are not directly comparable.

Figures compiled from annual net operating costs reported in the NOMS Agency annual accounts and supporting data for Probation Boards and those Trusts set up in 2008-09, show total spend of £897 million (of which £112 million relates to Trusts), and for 2009-10 total spend of £899 million (of which £194 million relates to Trusts).

Financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12

The overall budget for Probation was £864 million in 2010-11 and £820 million in 2011-12. The following table sets out budget allocations for each Probation Trust in 2010-11 and contract values for financial year 2011-12 as agreed with each Probation Trust. It should be noted that, in addition to these amounts, some funds were held centrally for specific offender related initiatives. These are not embedded in the budget and contract values and therefore excluded from the table. Individual amounts may vary throughout the year, but are shown as at the start of the financial year. Probation Trusts may also receive income from elsewhere. Figures are rounded to the nearest million pounds.

		£ million
Probation Trust	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Avon and Somerset	20	19
Bedfordshire	9	9
Cambridgeshire	10	9
Cheshire	15	14
Cumbria	8	8
Derbyshire	14	13
Devon and Cornwall	19	18
Dorset	9	8
Durham and Teeside	23	22
Essex	19	19
Gloucestershire	8	7
Greater Manchester	50	48
Hampshire	24	23
Hertfordshire	11	11
Humberside	16	16
Kent	21	19
Lancashire	24	23
Leicestershire	15	14
Lincolnshire	9	9
London	146	138
Merseyside	31	29
Norfolk and Suffolk	20	19
North Yorkshire	10	9
Northamptonshire	9	9
Northumbria	28	28
Nottinghamshire	19	18
South Yorkshire	25	24
Staffs/West Mids	72	69
Surrey and Sussex	27	25
Thames Valley	26	25
Wales	55	52
Warwickshire	7	7
West Mercia	15	14
West Yorkshire	40	38
Wiltshire	7	7

Budgets for periods 2012-13 and 2013-14

Given the demanding settlement the Department received in the 2010 spending review, we are continuing to finalise our savings plans for the remainder of the SR period, and as a result detailed budgets for individual trusts are not yet available.

Remand in Custody

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of adults remanded in custody were subsequently *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* given a community sentence in the last three years for which figures are available. [73761]

Mr Blunt: The number and proportion of adults remanded in custody at magistrates courts and the Crown court in England and Wales who were subsequently acquitted or went on to receive a community sentence between 2008 to 2010 (latest currently available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

The estimated number and percentage of adults[1] remanded in custody[2] who were subsequently acquitted[3] or received a non-custodial sentence[4] at magistrates courts and the Crown court, England and Wales 2008 to 2010

Final outcome	*Adult defendants*		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Number			
Magistrates courts[5]			
Acquitted	6,802	4,768	6,582
Immediate custody	11,535	11,665	8,008
Non-custodial	15,271	11,549	10,098
Of which			
Community sentence	5,203	3,763	3,235
Crown court			
Acquitted	3,800	4,160	4,523
Immediate custody	29,687	30,033	30,792
Non-custodial	6,032	5,986	6,439
Of which			
Community sentence	2,319	2,304	2,583

The estimated number and percentage of adults[1] remanded in custody[2] who were subsequently acquitted[3] or received a non-custodial sentence[4] at magistrates courts and the Crown court, England and Wales 2008 to 2010

Final outcome	*Adult defendants*		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Percentage[5]			
Magistrates courts[6]			
Acquitted	20	17	27
Immediate custody	34	42	32
Non-custodial	45	41	41
Of which			
Community sentence	15	13	13
Crown court			
Acquitted	10	10	11
Immediate custody	75	75	74
Non-custodial	15	15	15
Of which			
Community sentence	6	6	6

[1] Defined as being aged 18 or over at the date of appearance in court.
[2] Includes those remanded in custody at any stage of proceedings at magistrates and the Crown court who may also have been given bail at some stage of those proceedings.
[3] Acquitted includes proceedings discontinued, discharged, withdrawn and dismissed at magistrates courts and acquitted and not tried at the Crown court.
[4] Non-custodial sentences include discharges, fines, community sentences, and a number of other sentences that do not involve incarceration.
[5] Percentages presented here represent the proportions of all adults who were remanded in custody, excluding those who failed to appear and where the magistrates court committed the defendant for trial or sentence to the Crown court.
[6] Magistrates courts' figures exclude those committed for trial or sentence at the Crown court and those who failed to appear. Also excluded are data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
2. Some percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source:

Prepared by Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Reoffenders

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for repeat offenders there were in *(a)* the south-east, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Dartford constituency in each of the last 10 years. [74755]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of offenders sentenced for indictable offences by area and criminal history, 2001-10. These figures relate to separate sentencing occasions and therefore an offender may be included on more than one occasion, either within an area, across areas, or across time. These figures are a further breakdown of table Q7.5 in 'Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to December 2010' which was published on 26 May 2011.

Sentencing occasions have been allocated to a location on the basis of the police force that processed the offence, or in the case of Dartford the offender's address at the time of conviction. Repeat offenders are those with a previous conviction or caution anywhere in England or Wales.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of convictions for repeat offenders dealt with in the Dartford constituency, by Kent police and police forces in South East region, 2001-10[1,2]

									Sentencing occasions	
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Dartford constituency										
All offenders	295	255	295	285	261	355	389	430	408	491
Repeat offenders	259	233	262	238	229	318	359	381	364	440
Percentage	87.8	91.4	88.8	83.5	87.7	89.6	92.3	88.6	89.2	89.6
Kent police force										
All offenders	7,957	8,202	8,386	7,517	6,973	6,713	7,143	7,664	7,835	8,239
Repeat offenders	6,948	7,273	7,243	6,597	6,173	5,929	6,328	6,783	6,967	7,370
Percentage	87.3	88.7	86.4	87.8	88.5	88.3	88.6	88.5	88.9	89.5

Number of convictions for repeat offenders dealt with in the Dartford constituency, by Kent police and police forces in South East region, 2001-10[1,2]

									Sentencing occasions
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Police forces in south-east region										
All offenders	34,571	35,404	35,497	34,495	34,846	34,196	35,958	38,681	38,578	39,921
Repeat offenders	30,320	31,515	31,465	30,656	31,144	30,438	32,106	34,714	34,712	35,900
Percentage	87.7	89.0	88.6	88.9	89.4	89.0	89.3	89.7	90.0	89.9

[1] Repeat offenders are those who had at least one previous caution or conviction.

[2] Figures are counts of sentencing occasions.

Restraining Orders

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people breached restraining orders issued under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 on *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more occasions. [72997]

Mr Blunt: The figures requested are provided in the following table. These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Offenders recorded on the police national computer in England and Wales as having been convicted of breaching a restraining order on one or more occasions between 1997 and 2011

Number of occasions involving a conviction for breach of a restraining order	*Number*
1	8,146
2	2,046
3	719
4 or more	486
Total	11,397

Suspended Supervision Orders

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many suspended supervision orders were made in 2010-11; and how many were breached. [73416]

Mr Blunt: Suspended sentence supervision orders (under sections 122-124 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000) were repealed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and none was imposed in 2010-11. They were replaced by suspended sentence orders, introduced in the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which enable the court to suspend a prison sentence of 12 months or less while ordering the offenders to undertake one or more requirements in the community, including supervision.

The total number of suspended sentences handed down at all courts for 2010 in England and Wales was 48,118 for all offences.

Information on the number of suspended supervision orders breached is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* projections of numbers of flights and *(b)* economic data he used to inform his decision to reduce the rate of air passenger duty in Northern Ireland; [72987]

(2) what his policy is on devolving air passenger duty to the Scottish Parliament; [72994]

(3) whether he plans to alter the air passenger duty rates for passengers travelling in premium economy class on flights from airports in Northern Ireland; [73076]

(4) whether he plans to introduce any exemptions to standard rates of air passenger duty other than for long haul flights from Northern Ireland; [73085]

(5) which year's figures for the potential number of flights from UK airports his Department used as a basis for the Air Passenger Duty revenue forecasts announced in the 2011 Budget; and whether his Department plans to update the revenue projections for each financial year up to 2015-16 to take account of the latest forecasts from the Department for Transport. [74008]

Miss Chloe Smith: Northern Ireland's airports operate in unique circumstances within the UK. The decision to reduce air passenger duty (APD) was made in order to ensure that local airports remain competitive. The reduction also applies to premium economy passengers.

On the broader reform of APD, including consideration of devolution of APD to other parts of the UK, HM Treasury will publish a full response later in the autumn.

The APD forecast published at Budget 2011 used air passenger numbers up to and including 2010 Q4. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published the forecast of passenger numbers at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/APD%20(3).pdf

The revenue forecasts will be updated in the OBR's economic and fiscal outlook on 29 November, alongside the autumn statement.

Bank Services: Switzerland

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department has assessed whether a one-off deduction of between 19% and 34% of funds held by UK taxpayers in Swiss bank accounts would be sufficient to settle past tax liabilities. [70436]

Mr Gauke: The agreement with Switzerland on co-operation in tax matters provides for a significant deduction from Swiss accounts to settle past tax liabilities. In considering the level of the deduction, HM Revenue and Customs reviewed a number of settled tax investigations involving assets held offshore.

The level of deduction provided for in the agreement is in line with the outcomes of the reviewed investigations.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on full tax disclosure by UK taxpayers with Swiss bank accounts other than to the Swiss authorities; [70437]

(2) what his policy is on the disclosure of the identities of UK taxpayers who will be affected by the proposed UK-Swiss tax agreement; and if he will make a statement. [70439]

Mr Gauke: It is the Government's policy that taxpayers should make a full account of their tax affairs to HM Revenue and Customs.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the yield to the Exchequer in tax revenue attributable to the agreement with Switzerland on offshore tax evasion in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2014 and *(d)* 2015. [71196]

Mr Gauke: The UK expects to receive billions of pounds as a result of this historic agreement with Switzerland.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the tax withholding rate to be applied to the accounts of UK taxpayers holding bank accounts in Switzerland being lower than their UK marginal tax rate; and if he will make a statement; [70404]

(2) what analysis his Department undertook in reaching its determination that a withholding tax rate of 48% on investment income and 27% on gains will ensure the effective future taxation of UK residents with funds in Swiss bank accounts. [71360]

Mr Gauke: Without knowledge of the worldwide tax positions of individuals with assets in Switzerland, it is not possible to determine the correct marginal rate of taxation. For this reason, the rates of withholding tax provided for by the agreement between the UK and Switzerland on co-operation in tax matters are set very close to the top rates of UK tax.

The small difference between the top UK rates and the rates in the agreement with Switzerland reflects a timing advantage to the UK from the new withholding tax: the tax will be collected at source, and will reach the UK authorities significantly earlier than it would under self-assessment.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the application of the proposed UK-Swiss tax agreement to *(a)* trusts and *(b)* limited companies (i) established, owned, or settled by UK resident people and (ii) of which UK resident people might be beneficiaries; by what mechanisms it is proposed to verify whether taxation is applied to them in all reasonably foreseeable situations; and if he will make a statement. [70438]

Mr Gauke: The agreement with Switzerland was signed on 6 October. It contains a requirement for Swiss banks to look through complicated structures such as trusts and companies to identify whether the beneficial owner is a UK resident taxpayer. The full text of the agreement is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxtreaties/ukswiss.htm

Child Benefit

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1268W, on child benefit, (1) by what means a higher rate taxpayer who is not currently obliged to complete a tax return will be required to inform HM Revenue and Customs of their household child benefit status; [73602]

(2) by what means a higher rate taxpayer will be able to inform HM Revenue and Customs if their household is in receipt of child benefit if they are not required to complete a tax return. [74653]

Mr Gauke: The changes to child benefit will be administered through the tax system. People will be able to either contact HMRC to stop receiving child benefit or have it recovered through the PAYE or self-assessment systems. The withdrawal will be implemented through existing systems and processes. Further details of the changes to child benefit will be announced in due course.

Children: Day Care

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of allowing child care costs to be tax deductible. [73938]

Mr Gauke: The tax relief and associated national insurance contributions—NICs—disregards for employer-supported child care were introduced to advance the Government's strategy of encouraging parents into work by promoting safe, good quality child care and providing incentives and wider options to encourage more employers to support child care provisions for their staff.

Income tax and NICs forgone on employer-supported child care are estimated to cost the Exchequer £600 million in 2011-12.

Climate Change

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that progress is made on the developed world's climate finance responsibilities when he meets his G20 counterparts in October 2011. [74795]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has been actively involved in discussions with international and European counterparts, including G20 Finance Ministers, on international climate finance. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Credit: Low Incomes

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with high street banks on making affordable credit available to those on low and minimum incomes. [73382]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74375]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Department's aim is to pay suppliers within five working days. Details of our payment performance are published monthly on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/group_payment_performance.htm

Buildings Maintenance

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value of his Department's maintenance backlog and *(b)* time required to complete such maintenance. [74196]

Miss Chloe Smith: The management of maintenance and other building facilities is included in the contract HM Treasury has for its building at 1 Horse Guards road in London, details of which are available in Note 23.2 on page 160 of the HM Treasury Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11 (HC 984).

Other buildings are occupied by HM Treasury under agreement with other Government Departments that are responsible for maintenance arrangements in those buildings.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73103]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury operates a business case approval process for the procurement of consultancy services. In addition to the departmental approval process, Cabinet Office approval is sought where:

contracts are expected to last longer than nine months;

pre-existing contracts when extended take the total life of the contract to beyond nine months; and

spend is over £20,000 on procurement-related consultancy.

The process for engaging advisers follows the departmental procurement process and is dependent on the level of spend and the availability and suitability of pan-Government framework agreements.

Transport-related Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74377]

Miss Chloe Smith: For the period 2007-08 to 2009-10 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W, to the hon. Member for Dundee East (Stewart Hosie). In 2010-11 one transport-related fine was paid at a cost of £60.

Departmental Flags

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 274W, on departmental flags, whether his Department has flown the Union flag at the official buildings for which his Department is responsible on each day of the year since June 2010. [73691]

Miss Chloe Smith: Yes.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Departments in 2010-11; what guidance his Departments uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Departments in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72576]

Justine Greening: This answer relates to HM Treasury spend only.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (Tsol) provides legal services to the Treasury. It has published its hourly rates for 2011-12, which offer a 5% discount on the previous year. Further information is available on:

http://www.tsol.gov.uk/Publications/Scheme_Publications/business_plan.pdf

The Treasury engages external solicitors firms to advise in specialist areas using the Government Procurement Services Buying Solutions lists of approved legal suppliers. The specific rates for senior and junior solicitors are negotiated by central Government although better rates may be agreed during the contractual tender process. Further information is available at the following web address:

http://www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk/services/Legal/

In relation to direct instruction of barristers by the Treasury, and by the Treasury Solicitor's Department on behalf of the Treasury, the guidance issued by the Attorney-General and Tsol is followed:

http://www.tsol.gov.uk/PanelCounsel/appointments_to_panel.htm

The hourly rates for advocates on the Attorney-General's Panels of Counsel who are approved to undertake Government work are shown in the following table. The panel system is supplemented by the retention of two First Treasury Counsel to advise and represent Government in particularly complex and sensitive matters. Their hourly rate is also shown in the table.

Level of experience	*Hourly rate (£)*
Panel A (over 10 years)	120
Panel B (between five and 10 years)	100
Panel C (between two and five years)	[1]60
	[2]80
Regional Panel	[1]60
	[3]90
	[4]110
First Treasury Counsel	220

[1] Under five years' experience
[2] Over five years' experience
[3] Five to 10 years' experience
[4] Over 10 years' experience

The Treasury is required to seek the Attorney-General's nomination in any case in which it wishes to choose advocates who are not on the panel (for example, to use leading counsel). Fees in these cases are individually set but the nomination process ensures that a strong business case must be made for the engagement of higher charging counsel. QCs are instructed in line with the guidance published by the Attorney-General's Office, i.e. negotiated at between £180 and £250 per hour. Guidance on this is available at:

http://www.tsol.gov.uk/PanelCounsel/work_outside_panel.htm

The following list shows the external barristers and solicitors who have undertaken work for HM Treasury in 2010-11. Except where otherwise shown the amount paid in 2010-11 was less than £25,000.

Counsel engaged for HM Treasury:

Mr Jonathan Charles Ashley-Norman
Mr Daniel Awrey
Mr Daniel Beard
Miss Catherine Callaghan
Mr. Martin Chamberlain
Mr Richard Craven
Mr Jonathan Crow QC
Mr Alan Dashwood QC
Mr Jonathan Davey
Malcolm Davis-White QC
Mr James Eadie QC (£30,000 to £35,000)
Mr Tim Eicke
Miss Shaheed Fatima
Mr David Friedman QC
Mr Andreas Gledhill
Mr Martin Goudie
Mr Steven Gray
Mr Andrew Henshaw
Mr Javan Herberg
Mr Raymond Hill
Mr Andrew Hogan
Mr Ben Jaffey
Mr Ian Jobling
Mr Tristan Jones
Mr Paul Lasok QC
Ms Sara Lee
Ms Maya Lester
Mr Clive Lewis QC
Mr Angus McCullough
Mr James Maurici
Mr Julian Milford
Mr Paul Newman QC
Mr Paul Nicholls
Mr Andrew O'Connor
Mr Ben Olbourne
Miss Carys Owen
Miss Naina Patel
Mr George Peretz QC
Mr Ben Pilling
Ms Melanie Plimmer
Mr Simon Pritchard
Miss Shaheen Rahman
Miss Deok-Joo Rhee
Mr Clive Sheldon QC
Mr Sharif Shivji
Miss Kassie Smith
Mr Richard Snowden QC
Ms Jemima Stratford QC
Mr Jonathan Swift QC (£85,000 to £90,000)
Mr David Thomas
Mr Robert Wastell
Sir Michael Wood
Samuel Wordsworth
Brick Court
HMRC (Fawcett JR)
Monkton Chambers
Wordwave International Ltd

Solicitors engaged for HM Treasury:

Clyde and Co
Field Fisher Waterhouse
Irwin Mitchell
Linklaters LLP
Sharpe Pritchard
Slaughter and May (£260,000 to £265,000)[1]

[1] These figures relate to work instructed upon in the previous financial year.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73836]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury has eliminated pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value under £100,000.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department has entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74201]

Miss Chloe Smith: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73124]

Miss Chloe Smith: Details of the Treasury Group's spending on furniture and equipment in 2010-11 is shown in the Department's 2010-11 annual report and accounts (HC 984), table 13.1 on page 141. A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/annual_report_accounts140711.pdf

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75015]

Miss Chloe Smith: The following table lists the average working days lost per grade for HM Treasury employees due to sickness absence from April 2010 to March 2011.

Grade	*Average working days lost per employee*
B	8.0
C	6.2
D	2.3
E	2.8
SCS	1.0
Combined staff grades	3.4

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74376]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Dundee East (Stewart Hosie), on 13 September 2010, *Official Report,* column 788W.

Duchy of Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals in Cornwall have been consulted on the proposals in respect of the Duchy of Cornwall contained in the Sovereign Grant Bill; [75241]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that the people of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are fully consulted on the proposed future arrangements for the support of the Duke of Cornwall and related matters as contained in the provisions of the Sovereign Grant Bill. [75243]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Sovereign Grant Bill sets out how support for certain future Dukes of Cornwall is to be arranged if the heir to the throne is not the adult first son of the monarch. These arrangements do not affect any person or organisation in Cornwall.

The Treasury consulted the Royal Household about the content of the Sovereign Grant Bill.

The Sovereign Grant Bill allows no discretion about how support for the Duke of Cornwall is to be provided. Therefore no consultation is envisaged should these provisions ever be used.

Economic Situation

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 51, on the Eurozone, if he will place in the Library a copy of any economic modelling his Department has undertaken to project the effects of the latest round of quantitative easing on inflation in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [74561]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast, including a forecast for inflation, set out in its Economic and Fiscal Outlook (EFO), is the official UK forecast. The next EFO will be published on 29 November 2011.

The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England's forecasts of inflation take into account the monetary policy stance. The most recent MPC forecasts can be found in the August 2011 Inflation Report which is published on the Bank of England website. The next quarterly Inflation Report will be published on 16 November 2011.

The Bank of England has stated in its Quarterly Bulletin published in September 2011 that quantitative easing (QE) carried out between March 2009 and January 2010 raised UK inflation by around ¾ to 1½ percentage points and increased real GDP by around 1½% to 2%.

Enterprise Zones: Lancashire

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts in the Department for Business, Skills and Innovation on the enterprise zone bid for Lancashire. [73794]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Communities and Local Government are in regular contact with the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, on enterprise zone policy.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with former investors in Equitable Life on the length of the compensation scheme. [74593]

Mr Hoban: In accordance with the 2010 spending review, and the Equitable Life Payment Scheme Design published in June this year, the scheme intends to make all payments it can to non-with profits annuity policyholders—including estates—by April 2014.

It is intended that the scheme will remain open to make ongoing payments to eligible with profits annuity policyholders beyond this point.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether payments to Equitable Life policyholders under the 9 June 2011 scheme are being prioritised by *(a)* age, *(b)* years of investment or *(c)* any other criteria; and how many payments have been made to date; [74282]

(2) how many Equitable Life policyholders qualified to receive re-imbursement under the scheme introduced in June 2011 have received *(a)* full, *(b)* partial and *(c)* no payment to date; and if he will make a statement. [74147]

Mr Hoban: Payments under the Equitable Life Payment Scheme, which began on 30 June 2011, are being made in accordance with the payments criteria set out in the scheme rules, available at:

http://equitablelifepaymentscheme.independent.gov.uk/docs/pdfs/elps_main_doc_final.pdf

Hundreds of payments have been made to date. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the schemes complex payment processes are refined further.

European Central Bank

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for his challenge to the European Central Bank Eurosystem Oversight Policy Framework. [73531]

Mr Hoban: On 15 September 2011, the UK Government submitted a challenge to the European Central Bank's Eurosystem Oversight Policy Framework (5 July 2011), in so far as it sets out a location policy to be applied to financial market infrastructure such as central clearing counterparties. The timetable for this case is determined by provisions of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union and by the General Court of the Court of Justice of the European Union, in accordance with its rules of procedure.

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department plans to take to address duty avoidance in the production of biodiesel. [73968]

Justine Greening: The Government are aware of several cases where producers have tried to avoid registering to pay biofuels duty. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) strongly defends the position that suppliers are liable to account for the duty if they produce 2,500 litres or more and supply the oil for fuel production.

A small producers' biofuel duty exemption was introduced in 2007 and continues to offer effective tax relief to low volume biofuel producers, who are also asked to keep sufficient records of their production under 2,500 litres per year.

To assist members of the public in reporting cases of concern, HMRC has developed an email template, which is available online at:

https://online.hmrc.gov.uk/shortforms/form/AAG_TAI

Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the effect of machine games duty on British seaside *(a)* businesses, *(b)* employment and *(c)* tourism; and if he will make a statement. [74133]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with, and receive representations from, a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much vehicle excise duty was collected in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [73386]

Miss Chloe Smith: Disaggregated national receipts data are not held and could be produced only at disproportionate cost. Information on overall UK vehicle excise duty receipts is published annually in the Budget.

Excise Duties: Petrol

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the tax payable on the average pump price of a litre of unleaded petrol was on 30 September 2011. [74038]

Miss Chloe Smith: The average pump price for petrol on 3 October, the nearest published date to that requested, was 135.02 pence per litre. The price includes fuel duty paid by fuel producers at 57.95 pence per litre and VAT paid by consumers at 20%or 22.50 pence per litre in this example. Published energy price statistics can be found on the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) website at:

www.decc.gov.uk

Financial Services Authority: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Financial Services Authority using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73492]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority does not use Government Procurement Cards.

Financial Services: Taxation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the adoption of a financial transactions tax by the *(a)* G20 and *(b)* G77. [73687]

Mr Hoban: The Government believe that any financial transaction tax would have to apply globally to avoid transactions simply relocating to those countries not applying the tax.

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the future level of UK gold reserves. [74482]

Miss Chloe Smith: The UK Government have no plans to purchase or sell holdings of gold from their reserves.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71395]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 14 September 2011]:* Information to the level of detail requested is not available except at disproportionate cost. HMRC has available the posting date, category and amount spent via Government Procurement Card (GPC) for transactions over £500, shown in the following tables.

Information for the whole of the first year (2008-09) and part of the second year (2009-10) includes GPC used by staff prior to their transfer to UKBA under the relevant machinery of Government changes.

HMRC apply tight restrictions to both provision of GPC cards and their use.

In support of the Government's transparency agenda all Departments will publish GPC transactional level data on their own departmental website, posting a link on:

www.data.gov.uk

Publishing data will bring visibility to the use of payment cards and is a proactive step to evidence control and compliance within a payment card programme.

(i) 2008-09

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount GBP (£)*
2008		
8 April	Hotels and accommodation	840.22
8 April	Hotels and accommodation	741.65
10 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
10 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
10 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
15 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
18 April	Hotels and accommodation	584.67
18 April	Hotels and accommodation	1,005.32
29 April	Hotels and accommodation	1,314.94
1 May	Hotels and accommodation	675.00
6 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
6 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
12 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
14 May	Travel—air/rail/road	533.84
19 May	Hotels and accommodation	688.16
21 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
22 May	Hotels and accommodation	786.34
22-May	Hotels and accommodation	786.34
27 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
11 June	Hotels and accommodation	692.30
11 June	Hotels and accommodation	1,550.67
11 June	Hotels and accommodation	692.30
11 June	Hotels and accommodation	1,550.67
13 June	Print and advertising	703.83
13 June	Print and advertising	703.83
13 June	Print and advertising	703.83
23 June	Hotels and accommodation	730.34
1 July	Hotels and accommodation	1,163.64
1 July	Auto rental	524.79
1 July	Hotels and accommodation	1,163.64
3 July	Travel—air/rail/road	574.26
4 July	Hotels and accommodation	595.02
4 July	Restaurants and bars	1,010.00
7 July	Statutory bodies	595.00
9 July	Travel—air/rail/road	1,941.37
10 July	Statutory bodies	595.00
11 July	Hotels and accommodation	668.43
15 July	Statutory bodies	595.00
16 July	Statutory bodies	595.00
28 July	General retail and wholesale	854.46
1 August	Statutory bodies	595.00
4 August	Miscellaneous industrial/ commercial supplies	969.87
13 August	Travel—air/rail/road	592.22
18 August	Hotels and accommodation	4,354.40
19 August	Statutory bodies	595.00
22 August	Vehicles, servicing and spares	756.14
26 August	Hotels and accommodation	4,197.00
1 September	Hotels and accommodation	4,004.05
2 September	Telecommunication services	701.74
3 September	Office stationery, equipment and supplies	604.89
4 September	Statutory bodies	595.00
4 September	Statutory bodies	595.00
4 September	Utilities and non-automotive fuel	608.54
5 September	Telecommunication services	505.83
8 September	Hotels and accommodation	580.95
9 September	Hotels and accommodation	528.05
9 September	Hotels and accommodation	528.05
11 September	Miscellaneous industrial/ commercial supplies	573.60
12 September	Travel—air/rail/road	516.28
12 September	Travel—air/rail/road	516.28
19 September	Auto rental	600.00
22 September	Hotels and accommodation	1,805.88
1 October	Hotels and accommodation	1,866.76
1 October	Statutory bodies	595.00
2 October	Hotels and accommodation	554.00
3 October	Print and advertising	1,184.40
7 October	Hotels and accommodation	507.80
20 October	Hotels and accommodation	1,329.45
20 October	Hotels and accommodation	829.89
20 October	Hotels and accommodation	651.70
22 October	Hotels and accommodation	3,662,75
22 October	Hotels and accommodation	3,593.47
31 October	Mail order/direct selling	1,820.21
3 November	Hotels and accommodation	756.30
6 November	Statutory bodies	595.00
7 November	Hotels and accommodation	598.31
10 November	Hotels and accommodation	1,077.95
10 November	Statutory bodies	595.00

(i) 2008-09

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount GBP (£)*
10 November	Hotels and accommodation	1,156.64
10 November	Travel—air/rail/road	1,133.34
10 November	Hotels and accommodation	1,445.80
11 November	Hotels and accommodation	659.64
12 November	Hotels and accommodation	667.52
12 November	Restaurants and bars	509.36
14 November	Hotels and accommodation	1,870.69
17 November	Hotels and accommodation	2,319.93
20 November	Statutory bodies	595.00
28 November	Marine supplies	631.10
2 December	Hotels and accommodation	873.16
2 December	Hotels and accommodation	873.16
3 December	Hotels and accommodation	2,009.59
3 December	Hotels and accommodation	2,147.27
4 December	Travel—air/rail/road	518.21
8 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
9 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
10 December	Travel—air/rail/road	741.60
11 December	General retail and wholesale	2,517.22
18 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
18 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
18 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
22 December	Hotels and accommodation	£629.71
23 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
23 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
2009		
19 January	Hotels and accommodation	1,015.20
20 January	Travel—air/rail/road	600.08
20 January	Travel—air/rail/road	600.08
29 January	Hotels and accommodation	545.12
30 January	Hotels and accommodation	786.25
23 February	Hotels and accommodation	1,009.50
9 March	Hotels and accommodation	958.00
13 March	Auto rental	822.91
16 March	Hotels and accommodation	749.64
16 March	Hotels and accommodation	749.64
30 March	Auto rental	598.85
1 April	Hotels and accommodation	663.70
2 April	Hotels and accommodation	3,409.64
2 April	Hotels and accommodation	3,478.69
Total (over £500)		118,507.86

(ii) 2009-10

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount GBP (£)*
2009		
9 April	Telecommunication services	598.89
14 April	Travel—air/rail/road	550.30
27 April	Hotels and accommodation	632.14
1 May	Hotels and accommodation	1,531.82
5 May	Hotels and accommodation	516.49
27 May	Hotels and accommodation	648.93
29 May	Hotels and accommodation	667.72
15 June	Hotels and accommodation	838.50
16 June	Print and advertising	1,699.41
19 June	Hotels and accommodation	648.78
23 June	Hotels and accommodation	1,584.94
24 June	Hotels and accommodation	522.00
25 June	Hotels and accommodation	980.00
24 August	Travel—air/rail/road	529.08
24 August	Travel—air/rail/road	529.08
28 September	Hotels and accommodation	1,289.81
28 September	Hotels and accommodation	1,289.81
1 October	Auto rental	971.01
5 October	Auto rental	766.44
16 October	Training schools	643.99
21 October	Hotels and accommodation	3,216.96
21 October	Hotels and accommodation	3,233.49
29 October	Hotels and accommodation	934.44
29 October	Miscellaneous industrial/ commercial supplies	857.92
19 November	Statutory bodies	1,317.90
25 November	Hotels and accommodation	2,069.87
16 December	Hotels and accommodation	1,016.13
2010		
15 January	Hotels and accommodation	695.60
1 February	Travel—air/rail/road	532.56
8 February	Hardware equipment and supplies	523.24
8 February	Travel—air/rail/road	527.28
22 February	Statutory bodies	688.77
1 March	Hotels and accommodation	1,057.30
3 March	Auto rental	1,204,62
10 March	Hotels and accommodation	535.09
12 March	Hotels and accommodation	1,007.89
23 March	Hotels and accommodation	3,595.22
26 March	Miscellaneous industrial/ commercial supplies	767.28
29 March	Miscellaneous industrial/ commercial supplies	729.68
Total (over £500)		42,537.45

Note:
Many of the entries relate to hotels and accommodation bookings and are for multiple rather than single travellers, mainly overseas, where it is necessary to deliver the Department's objectives, including fiscal fraud enforcement, enforcement of prohibition and restrictions, and the provision of mutual administrative assistance.

Chris Kelly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73716]

Miss Chloe Smith: Cash withdrawal transactions using Government Procurement Cards held by Treasury staff are automatically blocked by the card issuer.

Housing: Sales

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of homes in each price band in *(a)* London, *(b)* England and *(c)* the UK that were sold in the last (i) 12, (ii) 24, (iii) 36 and (iv) 48 months were bought or sold by or traded between offshore companies. [74311]

Miss Chloe Smith: It is estimated that during 2009-10, around 1% of UK land and property transactions valued at over £40,000 were to a purchaser with a foreign address. With a total of 990,000 transactions during that period, this suggests that around 10,000 were bought by a foreign purchaser.

This estimate includes both residential and non-residential transactions.

More detailed information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Income Tax

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people liable for the highest rate of income tax have ceased paying income tax in the UK since the introduction of the 50p income tax rate. [73228]

Mr Gauke: This information is not available.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has asked HM Revenue and Customs to assess the revenue from the 50% rate of income tax. As I outlined in debates on the 2011 Finance Bill, HMRC will consider all available evidence around the impact of the 50% rate including data from the 2010-11 self-assessment returns which will become available next year. Until then it is not possible to assess the impact of the introduction of the additional rate on taxpayer numbers.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer also made clear in his Budget 2011 speech that the 50% rate is a temporary measure. In an age when businesses, capital and people are increasingly mobile, high tax rates send a negative signal to those looking to work and invest in the UK.

National Insurance Contributions

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Ashfield constituency have participated in the national insurance holiday scheme. [73449]

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Lancaster and Fleetwood constituency have participated in the national insurance contributions holiday since the scheme came into effect. [73452]

Mr Gauke: A breakdown of successful applications for the NICs holiday by constituency will be published in the NICs holiday factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

Natural Gas: Exploration

James Wharton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of tax revenues from fracking. [73169]

Miss Chloe Smith: There is currently no commercial shale gas production in the UK. The Treasury has made no recent estimate of potential tax revenues from fracking.

North Sea Oil: Tax Yields

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of tax revenue which would have come from green taxes if he had not introduced the carbon price floor or the increase in the North sea oil supplementary charge in each of the next four years. [73126]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government are currently finalising their definition of environmental taxes. This will establish a baseline against which the Government's commitment to increase the proportion of revenue from environmental taxes can be measured.

North sea oil taxes are not environmental taxes and have never been classified as such. The revenue forecast from the change in the supplementary charge was published in table 2.1 on page 42 of Budget 2011.

Office of Government Commerce: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Office of Government Commerce using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73494]

Miss Chloe Smith: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Central Government Departments plan to begin publishing Government Procurement Card transactions over £500 on their websites, starting with 2011-12 Quarter 1 (April to June) data at the end of October and then on a monthly basis.

PAYE: Administration

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many incorrect PAYE codes have been issued by HM Revenue and Customs to taxpayers in the last 12 months, and what estimate he has made on the amount of tax *(a)* overcharged and *(b)* undercharged as a result of tax code errors in that period. [74041]

Mr Gauke: The exact percentage of incorrect coding notices issued is not known. In any year a small percentage of codes are always incorrect as they do not reflect changes in an individual's circumstances. That is why HMRC send out coding notices well in advance of the start of the new tax year so that customers can review them and report any changes to HMRC.

The overwhelming majority of PAYE cases (more than 40 million) are correct, so most people have paid the right amount of tax.

Revenue and Customs

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the Government's response to the Treasury Select Committee's Sixteenth Report of the Session 2010-12, on the Administration and Effectiveness of HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [72988]

Mr Gauke: The Government's response to the Treasury Select Committee's Sixteenth Report of the current session on the Administration and Effectiveness of HM Revenue and Customs was sent to the Committee on 30 September 2011. The Committee is now considering the response and will formally publish it in due course.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the planned closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices; and if he will make a statement. [73331]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has announced that it will be taking forward 14 office closures in 2012-13, including five offices already announced for closure as part of an earlier review. No representations have been received about these closures since the decisions were announced on 14 September.

On the same day, HMRC announced the office closure proposals under consideration for 2013-14. Eight offices are proposed for closure in 2013-14 and since the proposals were announced HMRC has received letters about two of them, Redhill and Stockport, each from an MP in a neighbouring constituency.

Feasibility on these proposals is under way and will inform the decisions to be announced in January 2012.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to allowing small businesses to communicate with HM Revenue and Customs by e-mail; and if he will make a statement. [73066]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is responding to customer requests for more e-mail contact by providing a wide range of structured and secure electronic contact services including e-mail. E-mail is now being used successfully in our day to day processes with our large and complex customers and HMRC are looking at how we can expand this to include small and medium enterprises and agents. HMRC are currently consulting:

http://hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/

on making an e-mail address a required element of a business's designatory data with a view to gaining greater understanding of, and being able to respond to, customer demands. We want to analyse responses (closing date 31 October) before taking consideration further. Electronic contact solutions are only introduced where HMRC is certain about the authenticity of the person sending the e-mail and where there are strong controls around the data, being sent.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to ensuring that small businesses have a named officer in HM Revenue and Customs with whom they deal. [73067]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs assigns a designated member of staff to those businesses whose size or complexity mean they need a relationship with HMRC involving regular, ongoing discussion on a range of issues. The level of tax at risk and the complexity involved make this the most cost-effective way of improving both tax compliance and the customer experience.

HMRC's 4.8 million small and medium sized enterprise (SME) customers tend not to have as complex affairs as those in the large business group, nor have the same need for regular discussion on an ongoing basis.

The cost of extending the relationship managed service to small businesses is not affordable, nor would it be practical given the needs of these customers.

Instead, HMRC aims to make it as easy as possible for compliant customers to self-serve with certainty, while providing additional help to those that need it.

Revenue and Customs: Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with trade unions to discuss the effect of the comprehensive spending review on HM Revenue and Customs. [73330]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Revenue and Customs: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73493]

Mr Gauke: Information to the level of detail requested is not available except at disproportionate cost. HMRC has available the posting date, category and amount spent via Government Procurement Card for transactions over £500, shown in the following tables.

HMRC are not responsible for how the card supplier/merchant categorise goods/services and some descriptions may be misleading, e.g. Catering and Catering Supplies in 2007 was for accommodation; Restaurant and Bars relates in most cases to international business hospitality. Further investigation can be undertaken for specific items where required but not across the whole of the reported spend due to the disproportionate cost of doing so.

Many of the entries relate to hotels and accommodation bookings and in most cases are for multiple rather than single travellers, mainly overseas, where it is necessary to deliver the Department's objectives, including fiscal fraud enforcement, enforcement of prohibition and restrictions, and the provision of mutual administrative assistance.

Information for the whole of the 2007-08, 2008-09 and part of 2009-10 includes GPC use by staff prior to their transfer to UKBA under the relevant machinery of government changes.

HMRC applies tight restrictions to both provision of GPC cards and their use and spend is tightly controlled and strictly follows the rules and standards of Government Accounting.

(i) 2007-08

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount (£)*
2007		
10 April	Hotels and Accommodation	700.81
11 April	Travel—air/rail/road	694.20
11 April	Travel—air/rail/road	694.20
11 April	Hotels and Accommodation	1,093.55
13 April	Professional services	1,403.00
20 April	Travel—air/rail/road	2,539.80
23 April	Travel—air/rail/road	500.00
23 April	Hotels and Accommodation	966.11
24 April	Hotels and Accommodation	666.31

(i) 2007-08

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount (£)*
24 April	Hotels and Accommodation	705.51
26 April	Travel—air/rail/road	570.00
26 April	Travel—air/rail/road	709.86
27 April	Hotels and Accommodation	812.40
27 April	Hotels and Accommodation	1,471.40
30 April	Travel—air/rail/road	508.80
30 April	Travel—air/rail/road	695.40
1 May	Travel—air/rail/road	942.59
4 May	Hotels and Accommodation	592.31
4 May	Hotels and Accommodation	592.31
9 May	Hotels and Accommodation	900.00
14 May	Hotels and Accommodation	1,735.53
15 May	Hotels and Accommodation	500.00
15 May	Restaurants and Bars	702.73
17 May	Restaurants and Bars	560.00
17 May	Hotels and Accommodation	910.00
21 May	Hotels and Accommodation	557.50
21 May	Travel—air/rail/road	615.92
23 May	General Retail and Wholesale	700.74
24 May	Professional services	671.53
24 May	General Retail and Wholesale	2,076.66
29 May	Computer Equipment and Services	597.00
29 May	Hotels and Accommodation	879.07
1 June	Hotels and Accommodation	2,376.00
5 June	Hotels and Accommodation	588.42
6 June	Hotels and Accommodation	896.00
7 June	Hotels and Accommodation	1,018.73
7 June	Hotels and Accommodation	1,018.73
8 June	Hotels and Accommodation	1,437.08
14 June	Hotels and Accommodation	500.00
18 June	Travel—air/rail/road	2,211.39
18 June	Travel—air/rail/road	2,211.39
19 June	Travel—air/rail/road	563.40
19 June	Travel—air/rail/road	754.70
20 June	Travel—air/rail/road	555.84
21 June	Hotels and Accommodation	641.79
21 June	Hotels and Accommodation	1,124.40
22 Jun	Hotels and Accommodation	822.00
25 June	Travel—air/rail/road	1,044.40
27 June	Hotels and Accommodation	540.00
27 June	Hotels and Accommodation	1,439.79
27 June	Hotels and Accommodation	1,799.75
28 June	Hotels and Accommodation	4,190.00
29 June	Computer Equipment and Services	515.00
2 July	Catering and Catering Supplies	639.60
2 July	Hotels and Accommodation	2,325.02
16 July	Restaurants and Bars	575.35
16 July	Hotels and Accommodation	750.00
16 July	Hotels and Accommodation	5,116.09
17 July	Hotels and Accommodation	537.28
17 July	Miscellaneous industrial/commercial supplies	681.03
18 July	Hotels and Accommodation	600.00
23 July	Hotels and Accommodation	529.48
23 July	Travel—air/rail/road	560.20
23 July	Travel—air/rail/road	945.63
23 July	Travel—air/rail/road	945.63
23 July	Travel—air/rail/road	953.31
23 July	Hotels and Accommodation	1,345.88
24 July	Hotels and Accommodation	4,445.75
3 August	Hotels and Accommodation	2,160.00
6 August	General Retail and Wholesale	3,724.75
7 August	Professional services	686.93
14 August	Books and Periodicals	1,159.05
20 August	Travel—air/rail/road	632.88
23 August	Travel—air/rail/road	992.01
24 August	Hotels and Accommodation	630.00
29 August	Travel—air/rail/road	502.43
29 August	Hotels and Accommodation	2,703.50
31 August	Books and Periodicals	649.60
6 September	Hotels and Accommodation	719.29
7 September	Hotels and Accommodation	1,744.88
12 September	Hotels and Accommodation,	697.50
24 September	Hotels and Accommodation	855.54
24 September	Hotels and Accommodation	855.54
5 October	Restaurants and Bars	514.15.
8 October	Hotels and Accommodation	503.76
8 October	Hotels and Accommodation	503.76
11 October	Travel—air/rail/road	575.65
12 October	Medical Supplies and Services	2,661.38
17 October	Travel—air/rail/road	527.88
24 October	Hotels and Accommodation	801.90
29 October	Hotels and Accommodation	1,682.48
8 November	Travel—air/rail/road	561.30
8 November	Travel—air/rail/road	2,336.50
13 November	Medical Supplies and Services	574.69
13 November	Hotels and Accommodation	580.95
23 November	Hotels and Accommodation	597.82
26 November	Hotels and Accommodation	1,372.73
30 November	Travel—air/rail/road	700.60
5 December	Hotels and Accommodation	1,148.87
5 December	Hotels and Accommodation	1,358.65
5 December	Hotels and Accommodation	1,428.32
6 December	Travel—air/rail/road	741.69
7 December	Hotels and Accommodation	804.87
12 December	Hotels and Accommodation	822.05
18 December	Restaurants and Bars	559.60
31 December	Travel—air/rail/road	992.30
2008		
14 February	Miscellaneous industrial/commercial supplies	699.13
15 February	Hotels and Accommodation	611.05
21 February	Auto rental	1,099.42
21 February	Hotels and Accommodation	1,114.57
22 February	Hotels and Accommodation	1,104.11
25 February	Auto rental	534.71
28 February	Travel—air/rail/road	769.54
28 February	Travel—air/rail/road	1,444.91
29 February	Hotels and Accommodation	549.29
3 March	Hotels and Accommodation	717.07
3 March	Travel—air/rail/road	1,526.64
7 March	Hotels and Accommodation	594.18
18 March	Travel—air/rail/road	555.53
26 March	Hotels and Accommodation	722.89
4 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
4 April	Statutory bodies	595.00

(Ii) 2008-09

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount (£)*
2008		
8 April	Hotels and accommodation	840.22
8 April	Hotels and accommodation	741.65
10 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
10 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
10 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
15 April	Statutory bodies	595.00
18 April	Hotels and accommodation	584.67
18 April	Hotels and accommodation	1,005.32

(Ii) 2008-09

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount (£)*
29 April	Hotels and accommodation	1,314.94
1 May	Hotels and accommodation	675.00
6 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
6 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
12 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
14 May	Travel—air/rail/road	533.84
19 May	Hotels and accommodation	688.16
21 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
22 May	Hotels and accommodation	786.34
22 May	Hotels and accommodation	786.34
27 May	Statutory bodies	595.00
11 June	Hotels and accommodation	692.30
11 June	Hotels and accommodation	1,550.67
11 June	Hotels and accommodation	692.30
11 June	Hotels and accommodation	1,550.67
13 June	Print and advertising	703.83
13 June	Print and advertising	703.83
13 June	Print and advertising	703.83
23 June	Hotels and accommodation	730.34
1 July	Hotels and accommodation	1,163.64
1 July	Auto rental	524.79
1 July	Hotels and accommodation	1,163.64
3 July	Travel—air/rail/road	574.26
4 July	Hotels and accommodation	595.02
4 July	Restaurants and bars	1,010.00
7 July	Statutory bodies	595.00
9 July	Travel—air/rail/road	1,941.37
10 July	Statutory bodies	595.00
11 July	Hotels and accommodation	668.43
15 July	Statutory bodies	595.00
16 July	Statutory bodies	595.00
28 July	General retail and wholesale	854.46
1 August	Statutory bodies	595.00
4 August	Miscellaneous industrial/commercial supplies	969.87
13 August	Travel—air/rail/road	592.22
18 August	Hotels and accommodation	4,354.40
19 August	Statutory bodies	595.00
22 August	Vehicles, servicing and spares	756.14
26 August	Hotels and accommodation	4,197.00
1 September	Hotels and accommodation	4,004.05
2 September	Telecommunication services	701.74
3 September	Office stationery, equipment and supplies	604.89
4 September	Statutory bodies	595.00
4 September	Statutory bodies	595.00
4 September	Utilities and non automotive fuel	608.54
5 September	Telecommunication services	505.83
8 September	Hotels and accommodation	580.95
9 September	Hotels and accommodation	528.05
9 September	Hotels and accommodation	528.05
11 September	Miscellaneous industrial/commercial supplies	573.60
12 September	Travel—air/rail/road	516.28
12 September	Travel—air/rail/road	516.28
19 September	Auto rental	600.00
22 September	Hotels and accommodation	1,805.88
1 October	Hotels and accommodation	1,86676
1 October	Statutory bodies	595.00
2 October	Hotels and accommodation	554.00
3 October	Print and advertising	1,184.40
7 October	Hotels and accommodation	507.80
20 October	Hotels and accommodation	1,329.45
20 October	Hotels and accommodation	829.89
20 October	Hotels and accommodation	651.70
22 October	Hotels and accommodation	3,662.75
22 October	Hotels and accommodation	3,593.47
31 October	Mail order/direct selling	1,820.21
3 November	Hotels and accommodation	756.30
6 November	Statutory bodies	595.00
7 November	Hotels and accommodation	598.31
10 November	Hotels and accommodation	1,077.95
10 November	Statutory bodies	595.00
10 November	Hotels and accommodation	1,156.64
10 November	Travel—air/rail/road	1,133.34
10 November	Hotels and accommodation	1,445.80
11 November	Hotels and accommodation	659.64
12 November	Hotels and accommodation	667.52
12 November	Restaurants and bars	509.36
14 November	Hotels and accommodation	1,870.69
17 November	Hotels and accommodation	2,319.93
20 November	Statutory bodies	595.00
28 November	Marine supplies	631.10
2 December	Hotels and accommodation	873.16
2 December	Hotels and accommodation	873.16
3 December	Hotels and accommodation	2,009.59
3 December	Hotels and accommodation	2,147.27
4 December	Travel—air/rail/road	518.21
8 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
9 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
10 December	Travel—air/rail/road	741.60
11 December	General retail and wholesale	2,517.22
18 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
18 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
18 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
22 December	Hotels and accommodation	629.71
23 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
23 December	Statutory bodies	595.00
2009		
19 January	Hotels and accommodation	1,015.20
20 January9	Travel—air/rail/road	600.08
20 January	Travel—air/rail/road	600.08
29 January	Hotels and accommodation	545.12
30 January	Hotels and accommodation	786.25
23 February	Hotels and accommodation	1,009.50
9 March	Hotels and accommodation	958.00
13 March	Auto rental	822.91
16 March	Hotels and accommodation	749.64
16 March	Hotels and accommodation	749.64
30 March	Auto rental	598.85
1 April	Hotels and accommodation	663.70
2 April	Hotels and accommodation	3,409.64
2 April	Hotels and accommodation	3,478.69

(ii) 2009-10

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount (£)*
2009		
9 April	Telecommunication services	598.89
14 April	Travel—air/rail/road	550.30
27 April	Hotels and accommodation	632.14
1 May	Hotels and accommodation	1,531.82
5 May	Hotels and accommodation	516.49
27 May	Hotels and accommodation	648.93
29 May	Hotels and accommodation	667.72
15 June	Hotels and accommodation	838.50
16 June	Print and advertising	1,699.41
19 June	Hotels and accommodation	648.78
23 June	Hotels and accommodation	1,584.94

(ii) 2009-10

Posting date	*Category*	*Amount (£)*
24 June	Hotels and accommodation	522.00
25 June	Hotels and accommodation	980.00
24 August	Travel—air/rail/road	529.08
24 August	Travel—air/rail/road	529.08
28 September	Hotels and accommodation	1,289.81
28 September.	Hotels and accommodation	1,289.81
1 October	Auto rental	971.01
5 October	Auto rental	766.44
16 October	Training schools	643.99
21 October	Hotels and accommodation	3,216.96
21 October	Hotels and accommodation	3,233.49
29 October	Hotels and accommodation	934.44
29 October	Miscellaneous industrial/commercial supplies	857.92
19 November	Statutory bodies	1,317.90
25 November	Hotels and accommodation	2,069.87
16 December	Hotels and accommodation	1,016.13
15 January	Hotels and accommodation	695.60
01 February	Travel—air/rail/road	532.56
08 February	Hardware equipment and supplies	523.24
08 February	Travel—air/rail/road	527.28
22 February	Statutory bodies	688.77
2010		
1 March	Hotels and accommodation	1,057.30
3 March	Auto rental	1,204.62
10 March	Hotels and accommodation	535.09
12 March	Hotels and accommodation	1,007.89
23 March	Hotels and accommodation	3,595.22
26 March	Miscellaneous industrial/commercial supplies	587.07
29 March	Miscellaneous industrial/commercial supplies	767.28
29 March	Miscellaneous industrial/commercial supplies	729.68

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the first 100 of the new anti-evasion and avoidance officers in HM Revenue and Customs to be in post. [72999]

Mr Gauke: The first 100 of the anti-evasion and avoidance officers are already in post and operational.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the proposed new anti-evasion and avoidance officers he expects to be redeployed from existing posts in HM Revenue and Customs. [73000]

Mr Gauke: There are currently no plans to use any external recruitment other than the annual recruitment of graduates. All of the new anti-evasion and avoidance officers will therefore be redeployed from elsewhere in HMRC or from other Government Departments.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to HM Revenue and Customs of employing the proposed new anti-evasion and avoidance officers. [73001]

Mr Gauke: These new posts are part of the reinvestment of £917 million over four years, announced in the 2010 spending review. This will see a redeployment of 2,250 staff this year. The annual costs of all the staff being redeployed and recruited in 2011-12 will be about £101 million.

Shipping: Carbon Emissions

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his negotiating position is for the G20 Finance Ministers October 2011 meeting on proposals for an international levy on shipping to cut carbon emissions and raise climate change finance. [74669]

Miss Chloe Smith: The UK Government believe a global emissions trading system would be the best way of reducing international shipping emissions effectively and efficiently and has submitted a proposal on such a system to the International Maritime Organization. The UK has also committed to spend £2.9 billion of international climate finance over the spending review period.

Social Lending

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what support his Department plans to provide for social lending through credit unions and community-based initiatives in each of the next four financial years. [73247]

Mr Hoban: The Government announced in July the establishment of Big Society Capital, the new operating name for the "Big Society Bank". This will play a critical role in accelerating the growth of social investment in the UK by investing in social finance intermediaries, including community development finance institutions (CDFIs). This initiative is being funded by dormant accounts as well as by a £200 million investment from the four main UK banks under Project Merlin.

Since 2006 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has been investing in the capacity of credit unions and other community providers to offer access to savings, banking, budgeting and affordable credit services. Credit unions and other community providers are well placed to serve people who traditionally find it difficult use mainstream financial services. The service offers a real alternative to licensed high cost home credit and other lenders, and to illegal loan sharks.

Subject to the findings of a feasibility study, DWP has proposed a new modernisation and expansion fund of up to £73 million over the next four years to support credit unions that are ready and willing to make the changes required to expand their services to many more people at sustainable operating costs.

Stocks and Shares

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on speculative activity of introducing higher capital requirements for financial institutions engaged in proprietary trading in derivatives. [73135]

Mr Hoban: A package of reforms designed to strengthen the safety of trading book activities were agreed by the Basel committee in July 2009. These reforms will increase the amount of capital that banks are required to hold against their trading book by two to three times and will significantly enhance the prudential safety of trading activities. These reforms will be implemented in the EU though the capital requirements directive 3, which will come into force by the end of 2011.

Tax Allowances

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees have access to accurate and up-to-date information on types of tax relief available. [74032]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) provides comprehensive help and guidance to employers and employees on its website which is regularly reviewed and updated:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/index.htm

Reliefs available to individuals and employees are also detailed in the self-assessment tax return and accompanying guidance notes.

Tax Allowances: Commuters

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the potential use of incentives in the tax system to encourage employees to use more environmentally friendly means of transport to travel to and from their place of work. [74033]

Miss Chloe Smith: A range of incentives are in place to encourage more environmentally friendly means of travel, such as the Cycle to Work scheme and employer-subsidised local bus services. Electric vehicles are not subject to fuel duty and are exempt from vehicle excise duty (VED) and company car tax (CCT). Fuel duty, VED and CCT also support the take-up of fuel efficient vehicles.

Tax Avoidance: Internet

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many incidents of illegal avoidance of tax, VAT and import duty in relation to the selling of products through online *(a)* businesses and *(b)* auction sites have been recorded in each of the last five years; and for which countries of origin. [73425]

Mr Gauke: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tax Evasion

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have been (i) investigated by HM Revenue and Customs for tax evasion and (ii) prosecuted for such offences since May 2010. [74040]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not hesitate to pursue a prosecution; however, cost-effective civil settlement procedures are used in the majority of evasion cases. This represents excellent value for the Exchequer, as all undeclared tax is repaid and they also pay a penalty which can be up to 100% of the tax evaded. Every year HMRC collects millions of pounds of evaded tax using these well-established methods.

A disaggregated breakdown of HMRC's interventions between individuals and organisations is available only at a disproportionate cost.

Details of the number of cases prosecuted for income tax, corporation tax, VAT and excise evasion are:

1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011: 385

1 April 2011 to 31 August 2011: 123.

Tax Yields: Environment Protection

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of tax revenue which will come from green taxes in each of the next four years resulting from measures introduced *(a)* since and *(b)* before May 2010. [73445]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government are currently finalising their definition of environmental taxes. This will establish a baseline against which the Government's commitment to increase the proportion of revenue from environmental taxes can be measured:

The estimated total percentage of revenue raised by environment taxes, as a proportion of all taxes in the March 2010 Budget was forecast as being 0.4%. The previous Government defined, the following as environmental taxes: landfill tax, aggregates levy, climate change levy and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of tax revenue came from green taxes in each year since 1997. [73453]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government are currently finalising their definition of environmental taxes. This will establish a baseline against which the Government's commitment to increase the proportion of revenue from environmental taxes can be measured.

The previous Government included the following taxes as environmental taxes: landfill tax, climate change levy, aggregates levy and EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Environmental taxes as percentage of total tax revenues
1997	0.1
1998	0.1
1999	0.1
2000	0.1
2001	0.3
2002	0.4
2003	0.4
2004	0.4
2005	0.4
2006	0.4
2007-08	0.4
2008-09	0.4
2009-10	0.4

Taxation: Accountability

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on steps to increase global tax transparency. [74031]

Mr Gauke: Recent discussions of global tax transparency have taken place in the context of G20 meetings. The UK supports G20 work on promoting the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information, which is carrying out a rigorous programme of peer reviews to encourage all countries to meet international standards of tax transparency.

Taxation: Carers

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes affecting kinship carers he has made to the tax system since 6 April 2011. [74533]

Mr Gauke: No changes specific to kinship carers have been made to the tax system since 6 April 2011. However, extra-statutory simplified tax arrangements previously available to certain carers ended on 5 April 2011 after the Government introduced qualifying care relief. This new relief extended foster care relief to certain other carers, including those providing kinship care under specified social care schemes, who share their homes and daily family life with an adult or child placed with them.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the European Commission on the carbon price floor. [73806]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury has not received any representations from the European Commission about the carbon price floor.

The Government continue to engage with the European Commission on a wide range of issues including as part of our overall policy development related to the electricity market reform proposals.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely combined revenue to the Exchequer from the carbon price floor and the EU Emissions Trading System up to 2015-16. [74160]

Miss Chloe Smith: Budget 2011 set out the estimated revenue from the carbon price floor and the EU Emissions Trading System up to 2015-16. The combined revenue is estimated to be £2,740 million in 2013-14; £3,170 million in 2014-15; and £3,610 million in 2015-16.

Taxation: Football

Mr Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the sum owed to the Exchequer by football clubs in the Premier League and Football League *(a)* at the end of each of the previous five tax years and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [72970]

Mr Gauke: The Government do not hold data prior to the year ended March 2009. Neither do we collate these data at the exact year end. We have provided the March figures for each of the past three years.

£

	Premier League	*Football League*	*Total*
Current	0	187,466	187,466
29 March 2011	0	732,517	732,517
5 March 2010	14,407,054	777,825	15,184,879
6 March 2009	16,773,867	8,205,111	24,978,978

These totals only include PAYE/NIC and VAT and are only a snapshot, valid only on the date taken and, as with any snapshot, the amounts are likely to have been significantly different if taken on a different day as liabilities can become due and payments can be made on a daily basis.

Mr Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of tax receipts from income tax received from professional footballers in each of the last 10 financial years. [72985]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available specifically for association football players.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74814]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury does not directly fund any civil society organisations.

VAT

Pauline Latham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what impact assessment his Department undertook on the likely effect on the express and mail industries of the reduction of low value consignment relief for goods from the Channel Islands and third countries; and if he will publish any such impact assessment. [73230]

Mr Gauke: A tax information and impact assessment was published alongside the 2011 Finance Bill last spring. Officials maintain a regular dialogue with both Royal Mail and the fast parcel industry about the impact of possible future changes to LVCR on their businesses and their views will be taken into account in deciding how to prevent LVCR being exploited.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the administrative cost to businesses of charging and claiming back VAT between VAT-registered firms. [73961]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has made no assessment of the administrative costs that businesses specifically incur in charging and claiming VAT between VAT-registered businesses.

VAT: Exemptions

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to extending exemptions from VAT. [74039]

Mr Gauke: All taxes, including VAT and the scope of its exemptions, are kept under review.

VAT: Housing Improvement

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will assess the *(a)* likely effect on the availability of housing and *(b)* the number of jobs which would be created by reducing the rate of VAT on renovation and refurbishment of property to 5% over (i) one year, (ii) five years and (iii) 10 years; [74622]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of a reduction in the rate of VAT applied to property renovation and refurbishment on the amount of VAT collected in the *(a)* first, *(b)* fifth and *(c)* 10th year following such a reduction. [74765]

Mr Gauke: The Exchequer cost, in the absence of behavioural change, of reducing the rate of VAT applied to residential property renovation and refurbishment is estimated at *(a)* £2.2 billion in the first year, *(b)* £2.4 billion in the fifth year and *(c)* £2.9 billion in the 10th year.

The cost of the relief would have to be met from additional taxation elsewhere, which would lead to job losses that would offset any job gains in the building sector, or through additional borrowing, which would risk increasing interest rates. Higher interest rates would have an adverse impact on families and small businesses, including businesses in the building sector.

VAT: Tourism

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the tourism industry of the increase in the rate of VAT. [73177]

Mr Gauke: No specific assessment has been made of the economic impact of the VAT rate increase on the tourism industry. The impact assessment published with the Budget in June 2010 provides information on the compliance costs to business overall of the VAT rate increase, but not at sector level.

Working Tax Credit

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology he used to calculate the estimated savings to the public purse which he expects to arise from changes to the working tax credit; and if he will place in the Library a copy of these calculations. [73014]

Mr Gauke: The methodology used to calculate savings to the Exchequer from changes to tax credits at Budget 2010 and spending review 2010 can be found in the accompanying policy costings documents: "Budget 2010 policy costings" is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

"Spending Review 2010 policy costings" is available at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

Written Questions: Government Responses

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 68073, *(b)* 68074 and *(c)* 68075, tabled on 19 July 2011 for answer on 5 September 2011. [74718]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury has replied to the hon. Member's questions.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the effects of his legislative proposals on the number of people on the electoral register; and if he will make a statement. [74974]

Mr Harper: The Government are funding research to understand the current state of the electoral register which will help us to better understand the way in which the move to individual registration will have an impact.

The Government will do everything they can to maintain the completeness of the electoral register. This includes phasing in the move to Individual Registration over two years so that people on the register who do not apply under the new system do not lose their vote at the 2015 General Election. Every eligible elector will be asked in 2014 to register under the new system: this will include personal invites to people on the register, inquiries to households where no one is registered or people have moved, reminder letters and face-to-face doorstep canvassers. There will also be a publicity campaign run by the Electoral Commission and we are testing data matching to identify people missing from the register and looking at how we can increase the choices people have over how to register, including greater use of online registration.

Electoral Registration

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the evidential basis is for his proposals on future requirements for people to co-operate with electoral registration officers compiling a register of electors. [74151]

Mr Harper: It is currently not compulsory to be registered to vote and this will not change under the Government's individual electoral registration (IER) proposals. It is an offence at present for anyone not to provide information when required to do so by an electoral registration officer (ERO), for example, in response to the household canvass form. The Government propose to retain this offence under the new system, however, it is not proposed to create a new offence for an individual failing to respond to an invitation to register. We believe that the act of registering is one of personal responsibility, and as such there should be no compulsion for an individual to make an application to register to vote.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his office use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73216]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I and the officials and special advisers in my office conduct Government business in accordance with the Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code.

Hillsborough Disaster

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister since his appointment on the unredacted release of the Hillsborough Cabinet minutes. [74300]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and I agree on the need to provide full transparency about the Hillsborough disaster through full public disclosure. All the Cabinet Office papers have been shared with the Hillsborough Independent Panel and the Government are happy for all the papers to be released as soon as the panel so decides, in consultation with the families. The Prime Minister, Home Secretary and I expect them to be shared with the Hillsborough families first and then with the wider public.

House of Lords: Elections

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what timetable he expects to set is for the introduction of elections to the House of Lords; and if he will make a statement. [74294]

Mr Harper: A Joint Committee of both Houses is undertaking pre-legislative scrutiny of the Government's draft House of Lords Reform Bill and it is due to report by 29 February 2012. A Government Bill will be introduced in the next session of Parliament. The Government hope that the first elections to the reformed House of Lords will take place on 7 May 2015.

Prisoners: Voting

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which categories of prisoners he expects to be enfranchised. [73965]

Mr Harper: The European Court of Human Rights has granted an extension to the deadline for implementing prisoner voting rights that was set in the Greens and MT judgment against the UK.

This is because the court is considering an Italian prisoner voting rights case—Scoppola *v.* Italy.

It is right to consider the final Scoppola judgment and the wider legal context before setting out next steps on prisoner voting.

The Government will express their views on the principles raised in that case, and we will be arguing that it is for Parliament to decide the way forward on this issue.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Lottery Fund: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many members of staff worked for the Big Lottery Fund in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how many will work for the fund in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [74769]

Mr Hurd: The number of staff that worked for the Big Lottery Fund during 2010-11 and 2011-12 are set out in the following table:

	Number of staff (FTE)
2010-11	982
2011-12[1]	986

[1] Figures for this year are an estimate based on the year to date.

The figures exclude non-executives as well as those employed by the national lottery promotions unit. The Big Lottery Fund does not hold staff figures for future years.

Big Society Capital

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations he received on the Big Society Bank in each month since June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [74801]

Mr Hurd: I have received numerous representations in relation to the Big Society Bank since June 2010 including correspondence, meetings and parliamentary business. Ministers are actively engaging with civil society organisations across England through a programme of regional events, as well as working closely with the devolved Administrations to develop policy on the Big Society Bank.

Progress on the Big Society Bank is published on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/big-society-capital

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many representations he has received on Big Society Capital in each month since June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75102]

Mr Hurd: As Minster for Civil Society, I have received numerous representations in relation to the Big Society Capital since June 2010 including correspondence, meetings and parliamentary business.

Ministers are actively engaging with civil society organisations across England through a programme of regional events, as well as working closely with the devolved Administrations to develop policy on the Big Society Capital.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish the *(a)* business plan and *(b)* accounts and *(c)* minutes of each board meeting of Big Society Capital since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [75103]

Mr Hurd: Big Society Capital is a private company and so it is not for Government to publish its business plan, accounts and board minutes.

The outline proposal for Big Society Capital submitted by Sir Ronald Cohen and Nick O'Donohoe, and endorsed by Cabinet Office Ministers, states that transparency will be one of Big Society Capital's guiding principles, and commits to clear reporting of its financial results and social impact of its investments.

The Government publish progress on establishing the Big Society Bank on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/big-society-capital

Charitable Donations: Business

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the level of charitable giving *(a)* in total, *(b)* by UK-owned businesses and *(c)* by businesses based in the UK in each of the last three years. [74771]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office collated existing evidence on levels of giving which was published in the Giving Green Paper in December last year. Figures from the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) estimated that in 2009-10, 28.4 million adults (56%) donated to charity in a typical month accounting for £10.6 billion of total annual charitable donations. This represented a rise of over £400 million from its 2008-09 level of £10.2 billion.

The Cabinet Office does not produce any estimates for donations by UK-owned businesses. Official estimates available from HMRC only account for a subset of total donations through gift aid and covenants.

In 2009, the total value of worldwide community investment including cash, time, and in-kind donations of the largest 300 UK corporate donors was £1.9 billion—the highest figure reported to date.

Charities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many investigations into the activities of UK registered charities were launched by the Charity Commission in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [75455]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission's chief executive to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 17 October 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many investigations into the activities of UK registered charities were launched by the Charity Commission in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement [75455].

When concerns are reported to us, we assess them against our published risk and proportionality framework and decide on the most appropriate action to take. When serious concerns are reported, we may open an investigation or, in the most serious cases, a statutory inquiry under s. 8 of the Charities Act 2006.

The number of investigations opened in each year is as follows:

	Number
2010-11	144
2009-10	180
2008-09	168
2007-08	170
2006-07	303

The number of statutory inquiries opened in each year is as follows:

	Number
2010-11	3
2009-10	9
2008-09	19
2007-08	19
2006-07	26

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many investigations into the activities of UK registered charities the Charity Commission has planned for as part of its budgetary process in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [75456]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission's chief executive to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 17 October 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many investigations into the activities of UK registered charities the Charity Commission has planned for as part of its budgetary process in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14 and (d) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement [75456].

The Charity Commission does not set quotas or have numerical limits for how many investigations it carries out, or for its other work related to investigations. All cases of concerns are, and will continue to be, examined against our risk framework to determine the most appropriate and proportionate course of action, which may in some cases include an investigation.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many charities that were investigated by the Charity Commission closed voluntarily or were shut down *(a)* within 12 months and *(b)* within six months of the investigation completing in each year since 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [75457]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the commission's chief executive to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 17 October 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many charities that were investigated by the Charity Commission closed voluntarily or were shut down (a) within 12 months and (b) within six months of the investigation completing in each year since 2007-08; and if he will make a statement [75457].

We do not monitor these statistics. Where we know that a charity has wound up or been taken off the Register of Charities, we will refer to this in our inquiry reports.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public benefit assessments the Charity Commission undertook in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; how many it expects to undertake in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [75459]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission's Head of Corporate Services to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 17 October 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many public benefit assessments the Charity Commission undertook in (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11; how many it expects to undertake in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; and if he will make a statement [75459].

The Commission carried out 12 public benefit assessments in 2009/10 and 8 assessments in 2010/11. No further public benefit assessments are planned.

I hope this information is helpful.

Charity Commission

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the priorities were of the Charity Commission in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [75107]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission, have asked the Commission's Head of Corporate Services to reply.

Letter from Nick Allaway, dated 14 October 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what the priorities were of the Charity Commission in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12 [75107].

Our priorities for 2010-11 were set out in our strategic plan for 2008-11. During this period, we were committed to achieving the following strategic priorities:

continuing our commitment to modern, risk-based regulation;

delivering organisational change and valuing our people;

independent, objective decision-making and leadership;

driving the accountability of charities to the public;

delivering faster, more efficient services to our customers; and

completing the implementation of the Charities Act 2006.

Delivering against these has enabled the Commission to achieve the five statutory objectives set out in the Charities Act 2006.

Following a reduction to our budget of 33% in real terms in the last spending review, the Commission has embarked on a fundamental review of our activities. We are currently in the process of finalising a strategic plan to cover the period 2012-15, which will be made publicly available in due course.

I hope this information is helpful.

Charity Commission: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent staff the Charity Commission employed in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how many employees he expects the Commission to employ in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [75108]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission's head of corporate services to reply.

Letter from Nick Allaway, dated 14 October 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many full-time equivalent staff the Charity Commission employed In (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12; and how many employees he expects the Commission to employ in each of the next three years [75108].

The number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff employed by the Charity Commission in 2010/11 was 404 staff (as at 31 March 2011). For the current year, 2011/12, it is expected that the Commission will employ 343 FTE staff by 31 March 2012.

For the remaining three years of the current spending review period the FTE staff numbers at the Charity Commission are planned to be:

	Staff
2012-13	290
2013-14	288
2014-15	287

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff the Charity Commission employed to investigate complaints against UK registered charities in each year since 2007-08; how many it expects to employ in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [75458]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission's chief executive to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 17 October 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many staff the Charity Commission employed to investigate complaints against UK registered charities in each year since 2007-08; how many it expects to employ in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; and if he will make a statement [75458].

Since 2007, our investigations work was contained in our Compliance area in three Compliance Investigation teams. There were between 30 and 35 people in total in those teams with FTE each year as follows: 2007/08 31; 2008/09 34.2; 2009/10 32.4; and 2010/11 29.6.

In future, we will not be organising our work and structures in the same way therefore it is not possible to make a direct comparison on staffing figures. The Investigations and Enforcement area will carry out the Commission's investigations and is expected to have around 30 staff, although not all of these will be conducting investigations.

In addition, some of the work previously carried out as formal investigations will still be conducted, and the regulatory issues dealt with, in four Operations Units, one in each of our offices. In total there are 52 people in these teams. They will also be carrying out permissions and consents cases as well as other regulatory work.

I hope this information is helpful.

Civil Service: Trade Unions

Guto Bebb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to announce a consultation on ending the practice of civil servants working full-time on trade union activities. [73851]

Mr Maude: We are immediately reviewing trade union facility time across the civil service. Once the review is complete, we will start the consultation with trade unions.

Communities First Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding the Community First Fund was allocated in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much it will receive in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [74788]

Mr Hurd: The Community First programme has a budget of up to £80 million, to be spent between April 2011 and March 2015. A breakdown of annual funding is provided as follows:

£ million

	Community First Funding	*Endowment Match Challenge*
2010-2011	0	0
2011-2012	5	10
2012-2013	7.5	15
2013-2014	7.5	15
2014-2015	10	10
Total	30	50

Further information on the allocation of funds to individual wards can be found on the Community Development Foundation's website:

http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/community-first

Communities First Fund: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons *(a)* Grimsbury, *(b)* Neithrop and *(c)* Ruscote ward within Cherwell district council does not qualify for Community First funding. [74725]

Mr Hurd: The aim of the Community First programme is to encourage more social action in neighbourhoods with significant deprivation and low social capital. It aims to encourage people to help others and themselves to improve the quality of life locally.

The eligible wards for Community First were selected using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, cross-cut with significant jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimant increases at top tier local authority level. In Oxfordshire, the eligible wards are Blackbird Leys and Rose Hill, and Iffley. They will both receive £33,910 of match funding over four years.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of invoices from suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* 10 Downing street his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74395]

Mr Maude: 10 Downing street is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and this answer covers the Department as a whole.

The percentage of invoices from suppliers paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010 are shown in the following table.

	Percentage
July 2010	96.3
August 2010	96.3

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects in respect of (i) the Cabinet Office, (ii) 10 Downing street and (iii) the office of the Deputy Prime Minister his Department plans in (A) 2011-12 and (B) 2012-13; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74394]

Mr Maude: 10 Downing street and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office is undertaking building and refurbishment projects and details of costs can be found at the Cabinet Office transparency website.

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/financial-transactions-data-co

There are no current plans for any project work during 2012-13.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73096]

Mr Maude: The use of external resources (including consultants) is subject to the scrutiny of the Cabinet Office Approvals Board, which is chaired by myself. Approved engagements are made in line with the Department's procurement policy.

Representations: Policy

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations he has received on *(a)* the Big Society Bank, *(b)* the Work programme and *(c)* volunteering in each month since June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [75097]

Mr Hurd: As Minister for Civil Society, I have received numerous representations in relation to Big Society Capital, volunteering and the Work programme (which is being taken forward by the Department for Work and Pensions) since June 2011, including correspondence, meetings and parliamentary business.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73670]

Mr Maude: For the period October 2010 to September 2011, Cabinet Office Ministers spent £768 on hospitality for ministerial events, excluding de minimus expenditure for teas and coffee.

Pensions

Mr Spellar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* retirement age, *(b)* payment on retirement and *(c)* other terms are of the pension provided to the Cabinet Secretary. [74807]

Mr Maude: The information requested can be found in the Remuneration Report contained in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11 [HC 999].

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73843]

Mr Maude: 15 out of 17 Departments have confirmed that they have eliminated the use of pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements below £100,000. Work is under way with the two remaining Departments, which have additional security requirements to consider, to implement necessary changes to their pre qualification processes.

The Cabinet office is monitoring compliance with Departments.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to consult on procurement policy action note 3/11, issued on 31 January 2011. [74548]

Mr Maude: There are no plans to formally consult on procurement policy action note 3/11. In February, the UK Government Open Standards Survey included an opportunity to provide feedback on the criteria to define an open standard, which was included in action note 3/11. Cabinet Office is considering this feedback and has been informally consulting with industry bodies and suppliers on revisions to the definition and the action note. Updated guidance on the specification of open standards in Government IT procurement will be published shortly.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75110]

Mr Hurd: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Contracts awarded by the Cabinet Office are now publicly available on Contracts finder at:

www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73117]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has incurred expenditure of this nature during the last financial year, primarily in relation to the 70 Whitehall refurbishment project. However, this expenditure is not identified separately on the Department's financial systems and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73220]

Mr Maude: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Hillsborough Disaster

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the unredacted release of the Hillsborough Cabinet minutes since his appointment. [74297]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 506W.

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to his answer of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 943W, on Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA), for what reasons the Government does not wish to bring IPSA within the ambit of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967. [73654]

Mr Maude: The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration was primarily set up to deal with complaints by members of the public, therefore the Government believe that the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) should not be brought within the ombudsman's remit. Any Member who is dissatisfied with the way in which the IPSA has determined a claim may refer the matter to the statutory compliance officer.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in *(a)* Glenrothes, *(b)* Fife, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* each region in England were claiming jobseeker's allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [74760]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Glenrothes, (b) Fife, (c) Scotland and (d) each region in England were claiming Jobseeker's allowance in the latest period for which figure were available. (74760)

Table 1 shows the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for the requested areas for September 2011, which is the latest period for which figures are available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons resident in (a) Glenrothes, (b) Fife, (c) Scotland and (d) each region in England claiming jobseeker's allowance, September 2011

	Not seasonally adjusted *Number*
Glenrothes	3,363
Fife	10,950
Scotland	140,010
North East	88,155
North West	198,614
Yorkshire and the Humber	158,386
East Midlands	106,242
West Midlands	169,060
East of England	114,370
London	237,384
South East	140,405
South West	87,712

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Office for Civil Society: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the budget of the Office for Civil Society was for *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; what budget he has set for each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [74793]

Mr Hurd: The Office for Civil Society budget is published annually in the Main Estimates and updated in the Supplementary Estimates, available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Future budgets have been published in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11, available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Office for Civil Society: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff were working for the Office for Civil Society in each month since 1 May 2010; how many he expects to be employed in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [74792]

Mr Hurd: The Office for Civil Society is part of the Efficiency and Reform Group which is staffed from a flexible resource pool. This allows staff to be deployed flexibly as priorities change and, as such, we do not keep monthly figures for projects within ERG. At the end of 2010-11, the Office for Civil Society had an agreed headcount of up to 115 and in 2011-12, 86 assignments have been agreed. Projections for future years will be based on the annual business planning cycle.

Official Gifts

Mr Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to prevent former ministers from accepting gifts, donations, or offers of consultancy or employment from any company associated with healthcare provision for a period of five years after they have ceased to hold ministerial office. [74274]

Mr Maude: The Ministerial Code sets out the requirements on former Ministers after leaving office.

Public Sector: Mutual Societies

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many new public service mutuals have been created *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each month since June 2010; and if he will make a statement; [74802]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of new members of public service mutuals *(a)* in each region and *(b)* in total in each month since June 2010. [74805]

Mr Hurd: As part of the Government's commitment to support the innovation and entrepreneurialism of front-line staff, the Government launched Mutual Pathfinders to be led by public sector staff who wanted to take control of their own services. They are trailblazers for the rest of the public sector helping Government understand, by learning from the front line, what type of support and structures will best enable the development of employee-led mutuals on an ongoing basis. Twenty-one Pathfinders have been announced.

Twelve Pathfinders were announced in August 2010, one in November 2010 and a further eight in February 2011.

Ten Pathfinders are based in London, five in the north-west, two in the East Midlands, one in South-West England, and two in the East of England. The final Pathfinder is a nationwide organisation.

A further organisation, which forms part of the Department for Education's Social Work Practice Pilots, is also participating in the scheme, although it is not formally a Mutual Pathfinder. This organisation is based in the West Midlands and was already in operation at the time that the first Pathfinders were announced.

The Cabinet Office does not hold information on every new public service mutual that has been created across the country, as these are decisions which are taken by a wide variety of public sector employees and public sector bodies, including local authorities.

The Cabinet Office will launch the Mutuals Information Service and Mutual Support Programme in autumn 2011. These services will give the Government greater oversight of mutuals and their development.

Public Sector: Trade Unions

Mr Offord: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce the cost to the public purse of full-time trade union officials employed by public bodies. [74178]

Mr Maude: We are immediately reviewing trade union facility time across the civil service. Once the review is complete, we will start the consultation with the trade unions.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many long-term recipients of jobseeker's allowance moved off benefits in each month from January 2006 to September 2011; and if he will make a statement. [75249]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many long-term recipients of jobseeker's allowance moved off benefit in each month from January 2006 to September 2011; and if he will make a statement. (75249)

Table 1 shows the number of people who had flowed off Jobseeker's Allowance after claiming for over 12 months, resident in the UK, in each month from January 2006 to September 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people[1] who flowed off jobseeker's allowance after claiming for more than 12 months.

	Number
2006	
January	8,622
February	13,091
March	13,210
April	12,488
May	12,259
June	13,670
July	14,130
August	16,067
September	16,017
October	18,591
November	18,180
December	16,267
2007	
January	12,893
February	18,853
March	18,621
April	17,649
May	17,743
June	18,150
July	18,605
August	17,464
September	17,691
October	19,185
November	18,570
December	16,214
2008	
January	11,294
February	17,086
March	15,433
April	13,729
May	13,713
June	13,503
July	13,546
August	12,175
September	12,181
October	12,773
November	12,157
December	10,508
2009	
January	7,795
February	11,963
March	11,837
April	11,670
May	11,572
June	13,412
July	14,231
August	12,531
September	14,231
October	16,412
November	17,899
December	19,259
2010	
January	15,830
February	25,862
March	27,034
April	26,759
May	28,693
June	31,135
July	31,853
August	29,926
September	32,319
October	35,099
November	34,171
December	31,602
2011	
January	22,773
February	31,330
March	30,144
April	26,750
May	22,705
June	24,092
July	19,046
August	18,107
September	19,536

[1] The flow figures are collected for four or five-week periods between count dates; the figures are then standardised to a 4 1/3 week month.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office from which organisations he received responses to his Department's consultation paper on Modernising Commissioning in December 2010 and January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [74770]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office received 181 written responses to the Modernising Commissioning Green Paper, as listed. They represented a broad range of voluntary sector organisations, including front line and umbrella organisations, as well as local authorities and academic institutions.

In total, approximately 400 organisations responded through a mixture of written responses and consultation events. These feed into the Open Public Services White Paper.

3SC

A4E

Acceptcare

Acevo

Action for Advocacy

Action for Children

Addiction Dependency Solutions

Advice UK

Age UK

Anthony Collis Solicitors

APSE

Arts Council

Association of Charitable Foundation

Barnado's

Bassac

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Becksley Voluntary Service Council

Big Society Network

Birmingham County Council

Bournemouth CVS

Bradford CVS

Brighton and Hove City Council

Bristol City Council

British Heart Foundation

BTCV

Burnley Pendle and Rossingdale CVS

Camden Community Empowerment Network

Caritas Social Action Network

Charities Aid

Charity Finance Directors Group

Charity Tax Group

Cheshire and Warrington Change Up

Chester le street and District Council for Voluntary service and Volunteer Bureau

Children England

Churches Legislation Advisory Service

CIPFA

Citizens Advice Bureau

Citizens Advice UK

City of Bradford Metropolitan district Council

Clinks

Commissioning Support Programme

Community Barnet

Community Matters

Community Transport Association UK

Consortium

Co-Operatives UK

Cornwall Council

COVER

Crisis

Cross Government Commissioning Learning and Development Group

Cruse Bereavement Care

CVI

Disability Lib

Durham County Council

East Sussex County Council

ECDP

Essex County Council

Faith Based Regeneration Network

Fellows Associates

Foundation Trust Network

Fusion 21

Gateshead Council

Gateshead Voluntary Organisation Council

GIRES

GMCVO

Green Space

Guide Dogs UK

Hampshire County Council

Haringey Council

Havco Haringey

Helix Arts

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust

Herefordshire Public Services

HM Partnerships

Home Group

Home Start UK

Impetus

IPPR

Isle of Wight Council

Kent County Council

Lancashire County Council

Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington

Leeds City Council

Legal Services Commission

Leonard Cheshire Disability

Lesbian and Gay Foundation

LGIE

Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services

Liverpool John Moores University

Local Government Group

London South Bank University

London Voluntary Service Council

London Wildlife Trust

MOTIVCIC

Naaps

Nacro

National Children's Bureau

National Centre for Independent Living

National Youth Advocacy Service

NAVCA

NCVO

Ncvys

Nesta

Newcastle City Council

Newcastle CVS

North East Social Enterprise Partnership

North West BME Voluntary and Community Sector Network

Northampton Borough Council

Northamptonshire County Council

One East Midlands

Ormiston

Parents and Children Together

Participatory Budgeting Unit

Phoenix Futures
Pre-School Learning Alliance
RAISE
RAWM
Realliance
Refuge
Registry Trust Limited
rnid
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Rural Action East
Social Development Agency
Social Enterprise Coalition
Social Enterprise Works
Social Firms UK
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
South East Rural Community Councils
Southwark Habitat for Humanity
Sporta
St Edmundsbury Council
St Giles Trust
St Mungos
Staffordshire County Council
Stockon on Tees Borough Council
Stonewall
Suffolk County Council
Surrey County Council
SUSTAIN
Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector
SWAN Network
Swanswell
Tees Valley County Council
The Adsetts Partnership
The Brunswick Centre
The Business Services Association
The Camden Society
The Capability Company
The Guild
The Media Trust
The National Care Forum
The Social Investment Business
The South West Forum
The Stroke Association
The Survivor Trust
The Zebra Collective
Timebank
TUC
Turning Point
UK Council of Deafness
Unison
Unlimited Potential
Vassall Centre
Victims Support
Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire
Voluntary Action Oldham
Voluntary Action Sheffield
Voluntary and Community Action Wirral
Voluntary sector chief officers group Stoke on Trent
Voluntary Sector North West
VONNE
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Westminster City Council
Wildlife Trust
Women's Aid
Women's Resource Centre
Workwise
WRVS
Yorkshire and Humber Forum
Young Lancashire.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to make it easier to establish a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation; and if he will make a statement. [74803]

Mr Hurd: The Government are keen to make it easier to run a voluntary group, charity or social enterprise. For example the recently released Unshackling Good Neighbours report by Lord Hodgson has put forward a raft of recommendations to address the level of bureaucracy that civil society organisations and volunteers face. The £30 million Community First programme aims to encourage more social action in neighbourhoods with significant deprivation and low social capital. It will look to help start more neighbourhood groups and revitalise existing groups and be a catalyst for community action. In July we launched the £30 million Transforming Local Infrastructure programme which aims to transform the support provided to frontline civil society organisations by mainly supporting local infrastructure and volunteering infrastructure organisations to rationalise and transform.

We are also working on a completely new legal structure for charities—the first incorporated legal structure designed specifically with the needs of charities in mind. Called Charitable Incorporated Organisation, it will contribute to the Government's aim of making it easier to set up and run a charity, voluntary group or social enterprise.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he plans to take to make it easier for civil society organisations to work with the Government; and if he will make a statement. [74804]

Mr Hurd: The Government are committed to making it easier for civil society organisations to do business with the state. For example the recently announced Open Public Services White Paper sets out our intention to make it easier for charities and social enterprises to compete for public sector contracts by opening up public services. Our approach will be guided by applying five key principles:

Choice—Wherever possible we will increase choice.

Decentralisation—Power should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level.

Diversity—Public services should be open to a range of providers.

Fairness—We will ensure fair access to public services.

Accountability—Public services should be accountable to users and taxpayers.

There is also the £10 million Investment and Contract Readiness Fund to transform the support provided to frontline civil society organisations to help them develop the skills and infrastructure to win more capital investment and public service contracts. At the same time the Department for Communities and Local Government published the Best Value Guidance recently. The guidance makes it clear that councils should consider overall value—including social value—when considering service provision. This guidance sets out our desire that public agencies and civil society collaborate more in the running of public services.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74840]

Mr Hurd: A list of direct grant funding awards to civil society organisations in 2010-11 is provided below (not including funds passed to arm's length bodies to distribute as grant funding on behalf of the Cabinet Office).

Information for funding for 2011-12 onwards can only be provided at the end of each financial year as funding awards are finalised throughout the year.

Civil society organisation	*Grant amount in 2010-11 (£)*
Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations	210,125
Action with Communities in Rural England	210,125
Association of Charitable Foundations	126,000
British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres	155,006
Bolton Lads and Girls Club	72,176
British Youth Council	94,600
Bridges Ventures Ltd	448,391
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	331,200
Catch 22	298,503
Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations	275,953
Charities Aid Foundation	1,147,226
Charities Evaluation Service	154,812
Charity Trustee Networks	94,556
Church Urban Fund	90,538
Citizenship Foundation	700,600
Consortium of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Voluntary and Community Organisations	94,556
Coming of Age Partnership	500
Community Action Network	123,711
Community Development Exchange	252,602
Community Foundation Network	210,100
Community Matters	261,603
Connexions Cumbria Ltd	51,092
Co-ops UK	103,000
Community Service Volunteers	1,103,800
Development Trusts Association	445,624
East Midlands Regional External Relations Team	1,000
Field Studies Council	83,386
Football League (Community) Ltd	191,258
Foyer Federation	118,195
Futurebuilders England	36,125,093
Innovation Unit	200,000
Institute of Fundraising	579,300
Lincolnshire and Rutland Education Business Partnership	20,473
Media Trust	600,000
MENTER (Voice4Change England)	275,953
Mentoring and Befriending Foundation	1,050,600
National Youth Agency	323,100
National Association of Voluntary and Community Action	424,753
National Council for Voluntary Organisations	1,397,887
National Council for Voluntary Youth Services	242,143
National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts	250,000
Plunkett	65,000
Safe in Tees Valley Ltd	67,192
School for Social Entrepreneur	74,000
Social Enterprise Coalition	622,696
Social Enterprise London	90,000
Social Enterprise Mark CIC	150,000
Social Firms	124,000
The Challenge Network	1,236,000
The Norfolk NCS Consortium (Norwich City)	82,692
The Prince's Trust	50,138
Third Sector European Network	84,313
TimeBank	525,300
Urban Forum	96,132
v	47,628,676
Volunteering England	1,655,700
Women's Resource Centre	196,993
Young Devon and South West Consortia	39,820
Young Foundation	50,000
Youth Action Network	157,600
Youthnet	1,284,600

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of third sector organisations that had an income of *(a)* 1 million euros or more, *(b)* 100,000 euros or more and *(c)* 10,000 euros or more in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and what estimate he has made of the number of third sector organisations with (A) 25 or more full-time equivalent employees, (B) five or more full-time equivalent employees and (C) one or more full-time equivalent employee in each year; and if he will make a statement. [75106]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office does not produce or collate any statistics on the income of third sector organisations. However, the most recent figures collated by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) estimated that in 2007-08:

(a) Over 4,500 charities had an average income of one million pounds or more.

(b) Over 26,000 charities had an average income of over £100,000 or more.

(c) Over 80,000 Charities had an average income of over £10,000 or more.

Estimated income figures are not currently available for:

(i) 2010-11

(ii) 2011-12.

NCVO's report did not have exact breakdowns of the number of charities and the sizes of their work force. However, voluntary sector organisations were classified into five categories representing the size of the organisations and the report provided an estimate of the percentage of voluntary sector organisations that employ staff in 2007-08, these were:

1% of micro organisations employed staff, there were approximately 91,000 in the

UK according in 2007-08;

31% of small organisations, of which there were approximately 54,000 in 2007-08;

73% of medium organisations, of which there were approximately 21,500 in 2007-08;

89% of large organisations, of which there were approximately 4,100 in 2007-08; and

93% of major organisations, of which there were approximately 400 in 2007-08.

Figures are only available for 2007-08.

Third Sector: Employment Schemes

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions about the role of the third sector in the Work programme; and if he will make a statement. [75104]

Mr Hurd: There have been a number of discussions with my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment, Department for Work and Pensions in regard to the Work programme. At official level the Department for Work and Pensions and the Cabinet Office are working closely together to connect the experience of voluntary organisations on the ground with the policy intentions of the programme.

Third Sector: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much each beneficiary organisation has received from the Transition Fund since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [74794]

Mr Hurd: All of the awards for the Transition Fund and the amounts awarded are listed on the Big Lottery Fund website which can be found at:

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/transitionfund

Voluntary Work: Administration

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of administration associated with volunteering. [73936]

Mr Hurd: We are determined to reduce the red tape that prevents people from acting to improve their communities.

The Government commissioned an investigation into what stops us all giving more time and money to charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises, and what stops the sector from growing. In May, Lord Hodgson published his taskforce's report, which contained a total of 17 recommendations on these topics. Work is already underway to implement the recommendations and progress will be assessed in May 2012.

The Government have also set up a broader Red Tape Challenge with the aim of reducing burdens on business and civil society, supporting growth and reducing state intrusion into personal freedoms. It is the result of a commitment to review the entire existing stock of more than 21,000 regulations.

The Home Office has set out proposals to reform the current CRB checks system through the Protection of Freedoms Bill. Many of these reforms, providing the Bill receives Royal Assent, will reduce the bureaucracy facing volunteers and civil society organisations.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding the National Citizen Service was allocated in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much he has allocated in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [74789]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service (NCS) is a personal and social development programme that provides 16-year-olds with the opportunity to take on new challenges, meet people from different backgrounds and make a difference in their communities. NCS pilots ran during the summer of 2011 and further pilots are planned in 2012.

£2,562,256 was allocated to National Citizen Service pilot projects in FY2010-11. £12,340,231 was allocated in FY2011-12. These amounts were for the delivery of NCS pilots in summer 2011. Additionally £428,563 was allocated to the external evaluation of NCS in FY2011-12.

The Cabinet Office is currently running a commissioning process for NCS places in 2012, for which part of the funding will be allocated from FY2011-12 budgets and part from FY2012-13 budgets. The Cabinet Office will be in a position to confirm the funding allocated for NCS places in 2012 once the commissioning process has concluded.

Funding for NCS in the years after FY2012-13 will be a matter for the Department for Education.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what funding he allocated to each of the pilots for the National Citizen Service in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much he has allocated for each of the next three years. [74790]

Mr Hurd: The total amounts allocated to each of the 12 National Citizen Service pilots taking place in summer 2011 across the two financial years are shown in the table.

The Cabinet Office is currently running a commissioning process for NCS places in 2012, for which part of the funding will be allocated from FY 2011-12 budgets and part from FY 2012-13 budgets. The Cabinet Office will be in a position to confirm the funding allocated for NCS places in 2012 once the commissioning process has concluded. Funding for NCS in the years after FY 2012-13 will be a matter for the Department for Education.

£

	Financial year	
Pilot lead organisation name	*2010-11 allocation*	*2011-12 allocation*
Bolton Lads and Girls Club	72,176	269,618
Catch 22	298,503	1,811,005
The Challenge Network	1,236,000	2,972,352
Connexions Cumbria Ltd	51,092	632,976
Field Studies Council	83,386	697,907
Football League Trust	191,258	1,016,817
Lincolnshire and Rutland Education Business Partnership	20,473	80,191
Norwich City Community Sports Foundation	82,692	489,845
Safe in Tees Valley Ltd	67,192.	998,628
The Prince's Trust	50,138	1,072,371
V-The National Young Volunteers' Service and Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust consortium	369,526	1,217,621
Young Devon, leading the South West Consortium	39,820	1,080,900
Total	2,562,256	12,340,231

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people started a National Citizen Service project in each month since November 2010; and how many were still involved in those projects *(a)* one month, *(b)* three months and *(c)* six months after starting the project. [74791]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service (NCS) pilot projects take place during the summer. The independent evaluation of the first pilots is currently examining the number of participants on this summer's pilots and the numbers retained throughout the projects. The Cabinet Office will be in a position to provide those details once they are available later in the autumn. We estimate that up to 8,500 young people took part in NCS this summer.

NCS pilot projects typically run for four to eight weeks in total. Three weeks require full-time commitment from participants; participants then complete a social action project in their communities on a part-time basis, with a total time commitment of approximately 30 hours.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Coal Utilisation Research Association

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the status was of the British Coal Utilisation Research Association as a subsidiary of the British Coal Corporation during the legislative process between 1994 and 1995. [74976]

Charles Hendry: British Coal Utilisation Research Association (BCURA) ceased to be a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Coal Corporation (BCC) sometime in the early 1970's and acquired a charitable status. At the time of the BCC privatisation, BCURA was not a wholly owned subsidiary of BCC. The Department has no further information about BCURA's status at that time.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which body is responsible for former British Coal Corporation liabilities to the British Coal Utilisation Research Association which were not transferred to his Department. [74977]

Charles Hendry: The Department's understanding is that the liabilities prior to British Coal Utilisation Research Association (BCURA) joining the British Coal Corporation (BCC) family on 1 April 1969 rest with BCURA. BCURA liabilities were not assumed by BCC. The liabilities arising whilst they were within the BCC family are the responsibility of DECC, while the liabilities post 'privatisation' are with BCURA.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74461]

Gregory Barker: Since May 2010 the Department of Energy and Climate change has measured prompt payment performance against the Whitehall prompt payment target of five days. The percentage of invoices paid within five days of receipt for July 2010 was 93.8% and for August 2010 93.2%.

Monthly prompt payment performance is published on the departmental website.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74460]

Gregory Barker: The Department has no plans for any building and refurbishment projects on its estate in either the current or next financial year.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed for relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74907]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate Change has not *(a)* relocated or *(b)* agreed to relocate any of its civil servants in the last 12 months.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74908]

Gregory Barker: The estimated value of the difference between London and national pay scales for my Department is £3.9 million for the financial year 2010-11.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73196]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change estimates the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2009-10 at £250,000 and 2010-11 at £238,053. Figures for 2008-09 are not available because of the mid-year creation of the Department.

The estimate for the cost of (i) employing civil servants in 2011-12 is £287,509 and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12 is £56,000.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75130]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not awarded any contracts directly to third sector organisations since May 2010.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75013]

Gregory Barker: The answer is shown in the following table:

Pay grade	*Average working days lost*
AO	7.1
EO	7.2
HEO (including Faststream)	3.2
SEO	4.5
Grade 7	2.8
Grade 6	2.4
SCS	0.6
DECC total	3.6

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74462]

Gregory Barker: The number of events that people attended outside of DECC is not centrally recorded and is approved by individual line managers so the gathering of this information would be a disproportionate cost to DECC.

The total spend on training for the Department of Energy and Climate change from September 2010 to August 2011 was £833,423.91. This includes all of the courses that DECC paid people to deliver—whether that was for staff attending training at a training providers premises or for a training provider delivering training to DECC staff as part of our internal training programme.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* written, *(b)* e-mail and *(c)* telephone representations he has received in each month since May 2010 about (i) his plans to alleviate fuel poverty in the private rented sector, (ii) the operation of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 and (iii) the disconnection of (A) gas and (B) electricity supplies; how many such representations were from (1) individuals and (2) organisations; if he will place in the Library copies of responses sent to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74711]

Gregory Barker: The following table provides information as to the volume of correspondence received by DECC regarding fuel poverty in each month since May 2010.

	Correspondence from individuals	*Correspondence from organisations (including charities and companies)*
May 2010	29	0
June 2010	111	7
July 2010	111	6
August 2010	110	3
September 2010	76	2
October 2010	265	8
November 2010	217	18
December 2010	156	13
January 2011	180	11
February 2011	113	9
March 2011	178	11
April 2011	215	5
May 2011	156	10
June 2011	127	11
July 2011	163	5
August 2011	114	9
September 2011	153	3
October 2011[1]	56	5
Total	2,530	136

[1] Up to 13 October 2011.

In addition, during the period requested DECC received:

10 pieces of correspondence regarding gas disconnection,

four pieces of correspondence regarding electricity disconnection, and

two relating to gas and electricity disconnection.

It would not be appropriate to provide the Library with copies of correspondence relating to individuals for data protection reasons.

Green Deal

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to promote the uptake of the Green Deal; and what information and advice will be provided to customers to encourage them to take up the Green Deal. [75355]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will be market-driven so we expect the private sector to develop innovative approaches to creating demand for their Green Deal offers. Government are collaborating with a number of companies to trial the impact of a range of incentives. The Government are committed to the success of the Green Deal and the 2011 Budget confirmed the Government would act to encourage and incentivise take-up ahead of its launch in 2012. An independent telephone and web advice service will also be commissioned to help support potential Green Deal customers.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the likely number of privately-rented properties which will be involved in the Green Deal in year *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five; [74601]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely number of social housing properties which will be involved in the Green Deal in the *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third, *(d)* fourth and *(e)* fifth year of the scheme; [74602]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely number of privately-owned properties which will be involved in the Green Deal in year *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five. [74630]

Gregory Barker: Further details on the estimated take up of Green Deal across private rented, social rented and owner occupied sectors will be published in the Green Deal Impact Assessment accompanying our consultation later this year.

Mining: South Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications of *(a)* geology and *(b)* redundant mine-workings in the South Wales coalfields for potential shale gas exploration and hydraulic fracturing. [74023]

Charles Hendry: The implications of geology and, where appropriate, redundant mine workings are duly considered during the assessment of individual proposals for shale gas exploration and hydraulic fracturing, before the Department gives consent.

Mixed Oxide Fuel: Sellafield

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans for the construction of a new mixed-oxide fuel plant. [75277]

Charles Hendry: In our recent consultation on long-term plutonium management, the Government's preliminary policy view was that plutonium should be reused as MOX fuel. In order to implement this option we recognised that a new mixed oxide fuel plant would be required. The other options considered were continued long-term storage and immobilisation followed by disposal.

Government will shortly publish its response to that consultation which will set out how we intend to take forward plutonium management.

Nuclear Power Stations: Plutonium

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tonnes of plutonium he estimates are awaiting disposal at UK nuclear sites. [75278]

Charles Hendry: The Office for Nuclear Regulation publish annually the UK's holdings of civil plutonium. The figures as of December 2010 show the UK is holding 114.8 tonnes of which 28.0 tonnes belong to overseas reprocessing customers.

These figures can be found at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/safeguards/civilplut10.htm

Oil: Imports

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the import into the EU of oil extracted from tar sands. [73132]

Charles Hendry: The European Commission has recently brought forward proposals to reflect the carbon emissions associated with the production of refined oil products under the terms of the Fuel Quality Directive. Discussion of the proposals within the European Parliament and Council has yet to begin. One of our objectives in these negotiations (with DFT being the lead Department) will be to ensure that oil from all sources is treated in proportion to its emissions levels so that the directive is effective in reducing total emissions.

Oil: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage the sale of *(a)* oil, *(b)* petroleum and *(c)* electricity to Israel; what recent representations he has received in support of such steps; what response he gave in each case; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74709]

Charles Hendry: The Department makes no special provision to encourage such sales, nor has it received any such representations.

Renewables Obligation: Biofuels

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of grandfathering support for bioliquids made from waste and used cooking oil under the renewables obligation. [73969]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* DECC commenced a scheduled banding review of RO support levels in October 2010. Banding reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors change and evolve, developers continue to receive the appropriate level of support necessary to maintaining investment in the renewables industry.

We intend to publish a consultation on the proposed new bands shortly. This will include our proposed policy on levels of support and grandfathering for bioliquids.

Warm Front Scheme

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the Warm Front scheme is being phased out; and if he will make a statement. [74762]

Gregory Barker: As part of the spending review 2010, the Government announced funding for the Warm Front scheme to deliver heating and insulation measures to vulnerable households until March 2013. In late 2012 the Green Deal, accompanied by an energy company obligation (ECO), will begin. The ECO will provide assistance to low income and vulnerable households, enabling them to access heating and energy efficiency measures to heat their homes more affordably.

Wind Power

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average annual load factors achieved by wind power installations derived from Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin data for installations with a capacity of *(a)* less than and *(b)* more than 100 kW prior to December 2010. [73024]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not produce annual load factors split by size of installation. However, in 2010, the onshore wind load factor was 21.5% and the offshore wind load factor was 29.6%.

Source:

Table DUKES 7.4—load factors on an unchanged configuration basis, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

For *(a)*, most sub-100 kW installations are covered by the Feed in Tariff (FIT) scheme. However, generation data for this are not yet available, so actual load factors cannot be calculated. DECC estimates that load factors will be in the range of 15% to 20% depending on installation size. This assumes an average wind speed of 6.5 m/s, and excludes load factors for sub-1.5 kW installations, on the basis that nearly no projects of this type have thus far been registered under FITs.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much public subsidy was paid to onshore wind farm companies for periods when it was too windy for the turbines to produce energy in the last year. [73077]

Charles Hendry: The renewables obligation is a generation-based subsidy meaning support is granted for each MWh of electricity actually generated. Wind farm companies will, therefore, only receive support when they generate.

Payments will also be made by National Grid (in its role as National Electricity Transmission System Operator) to generators of all types to alter their output in order to balance energy supply and demand. However, these payments are not a public subsidy. The costs will be recovered by National Grid through charges paid equally by generators and supply companies, based on their energy taken from, or supplied to, the network.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on planning regulations for onshore wind turbines. [73255]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials regularly discuss issues relating to the construction of wind farms in the UK with counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Wind Power: Energy Supply

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost to the public purse in subsidies was of each megawatt of electricity produced by *(a)* onshore wind generation and *(b)* each other source of energy for which his Department holds information in each of the last 12 months. [73250]

Charles Hendry: The renewables obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising the deployment of large-scale renewable electricity deployment. Generators are issued renewables obligation certificates (ROCs) for every megawatt-hour (MWh) of eligible electricity they generate which can then be sold to suppliers, allowing them to receive a premium in addition to the wholesale price of their electricity.

The RO is a market-based support mechanism, rather than a direct public subsidy, and ROCs are trade-able commodities which have no fixed price. The amount a supplier pays for a ROC is dependent on bi-lateral negotiations between supplier and generator. The nominal value of a ROC in any given year is equal to the buy-out price (the amount a supplier must pay for every ROC they do not present to Ofgem in order to comply with their obligation) + recycle value (the amount re-distributed to suppliers from the buy-out fund on a pro-rata basis depending on how many ROCs they presented to Ofgem) for that year. The nominal value represents the maximum worth of a ROC to a generator but is not necessarily the amount paid by a supplier. The nominal value of a ROC in 2009-10 was £52.36.

The following table sets out the number of ROCs issued for each MWh generated under the RO for onshore wind generation and other sources of renewable energy across the UK. Similar support mechanisms are not available to other generators of electricity.

Eligible generators can also claim levy exemption certificates (LECs) which are also trade-able. The levy is currently set at £4.85/MWh.

RO banding levels

	ROCs per MWh		
	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Onshore wind	1	1	<=250kw 4 >250kw 1

RO banding levels

	ROCs per MWh		
	England and Wales	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
Hydroelectric	1	1	<=20kw 4 >20kw-<=250kw 3 >250kw-<=1MW 2 >1MW 1
Co-firing of energy crops	1	1	1
Co-firing of biomass with combined heat and power (CHP)	1	1	1
Energy from waste with CHP	1	1	1
Geopressure	1	1	1
Standard gasification or pyrolysis	1	1	1
Offshore wind	2	2	n/a
Co-firing of energy crops with CHP	1.5	1.5	1.5
Dedicated biomass	1.5	1.5	1.5
Wave	2	5	2
Tidal	2	3	2
Advanced gasification or pyrolysis	2	2	2
Energy crops (with or without CHP)	2	2	2
Dedicated biomass with CHP	2	2	2
Anaerobic Digestion	2	2	<=500kw 4 >500kw-<=5MW 3 >5MW 2
Solar PV	2	2	<=50kw 4 >50kw 2
Geothermal	2	2	2
Tidal impoundment <1GW	2	2	2
Microgeneration	2	2	2

Wind Power: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value was of constraint payments paid to onshore wind farm operators in Scotland in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2007-08. [73406]

Charles Hendry: Constraint payments of £176,788 were made to onshore wind farm operators in Scotland in 2010-11, compared to total constraint payments to generators of all types of £170 million over that period. No payments were made to onshore wind farm operators in Scotland in previous years.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 17 October 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business Link

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* face-to-face and *(b)* telephone business advice services he plans to make available following the closure of Business Link. [73326]

Mr Prisk: We believe the role of Government is to create the conditions for business success and to enable businesses to find the information, guidance and advice that will help them to grow and create jobs. That is why we announced in January a series of significant changes to the way information, guidance and advice to business is provided, with more focus on improving small business performance and growth, and with a greater emphasis on further and better private sector provision.

The Business Link website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

is being significantly enhanced and will continue to provide support to businesses to help them start up, improve and grow, providing a one stop shop for much of the advice sought by small businesses. Businesses tell us that they want to take advice from people they know and trust—experienced business people. That is why we have launched:

www.mentorsme.co.uk

a single easy to use search engine to access free and paid for mentoring services, including face-to-face mentoring). In addition, we have announced a new Business Coaching for Growth programme which will target around 10,000 companies with high growth potential, offering specific mentoring support and face to face coaching.

While www.businesslink.gov.uk will be the primary channel for business information and support, we are also providing a telephone helpline to help transition customers from the previous business support framework and to help those who do not have internet access and those who have difficulty finding the information they need on the website.

Business: Civil Disorder

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with businesses concerning lost revenue resulting from public disorder in August 2011. [74479]

Mr Prisk: The issue has not been raised in meetings with business, but has been raised in correspondence and with officials in recent meetings with local authorities and non-Government bodies engaged in post-disorder recovery activity.

Government support schemes for business cover loss of goods, damage to property and other costs as a result of the disorder but do not extend to loss of trade or earnings. Many businesses will have insurance for "business interruption" that will cover this. In addition, the private High Street Fund and other charitable organisations may make grants to businesses suffering hardship as a result of loss of earnings resulting from the disorder.

Business: Finance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on fiscal measures to increase the level of *(a)* employee-owned and *(b)* family-owned businesses. [74697]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, meets regularly with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss measures to encourage economic growth and enterprise, including employee and family owned businesses.

Business: Snow and Ice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with small businesses concerning the possible effects of winter weather on those businesses. [74478]

Mr Prisk: I have not had any recent discussions with small businesses concerning the possible effects on winter weather. Government recognise the importance of businesses having the information they need to minimise the impact of winter weather on their operations. There are a wide range of guides and interactive tools available on the Business Link website to assist all businesses in developing business continuity plans and to manage risks to their business.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62732]

Mr Davey: Central records indicate that the Department has made the following total payments by Capita Group company since May 2010;

	£
Capita Business Services Ltd	124,997.60
Capita Resourcing Ltd	36,156.10
NB Real Estate Ltd t/a Capita Symonds	347,978.13
Capita Health Solutions Ltd	4,467.00
Capita Symonds Ltd	747.00
Capita	445.00
Capita Resourcing Ltd t/a Veredus Interim Management	6,868.50
Grand total	521,659.33

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Clothing: Labelling

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the labelling by country of origin of clothing imported into the EU. [73134]

Mr Davey: HMG support the feasibility study being carried out by the European Commission on country of origin labelling for textile products in the context of the recently agreed EU Textile Fibre Labelling Regulation.

HMG welcome the voluntary practice of many producers and retailers in providing a country of origin mark on their clothing products, which they believe is the right thing to do for themselves and their customers. Any such labelling must be clear and accurate: it is a criminal offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulation 2008 to give consumers misleading information.

Construction: Conditions of Employment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that newly-qualified workers in the construction sector trained to NVQ level 3 standards are entitled to existing national agreements on pay and conditions; and if he will make a statement. [73051]

Mr Prisk: The Government feel that it is an important principle that agreements of pay rates and conditions of all employees are determined within the sector.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that employers comply with national agreements on pay and conditions within the construction industry. [73052]

Mr Prisk: This issue is a matter for the industry and it is for the parties concerned to resolve this between themselves through discussion.

Construction: Industry

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the contribution to the economy of the construction industry. [73181]

Mr Prisk: Construction makes a vital contribution to the UK economy. It contributed nearly 7% of the UK economy's gross value-added (GVA) in 2009, it is worth around £86 billion, and it employed around 2 million people.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68956]

Mr Davey: Central records indicate that the following amounts have been paid to PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte and KPMG in each of the last four complete financial years;

April 2007-08	£
PWC	789,737.96
Ernst and Young	—
Deloitte	3,109,935.58
KPMG	250,865.50

April 2008-09	£
PWC	4,055,985.64
Ernst and Young	—
Deloitte	1,990,035.28
KPMG	1,135,429.15

April 2009-10	£
PWC	927,122.30
Ernst and Young	148,737.25
Deloitte	1,091,613.67
KPMG	1,401,705.07

April 2010-11	£
PWC	56,266.00
Ernst and Young	39,826.00
Deloitte	2,345,964.70
KPMG	314,869.45

Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 months. [74489]

Mr Davey: The total number of press releases issued by the Department since 1 October 2010 until 12 October 2011 is 406.

Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66604]

Mr Davey: Central records indicate that the annual value of the core Department's contracts by sector for financial year 2001-11 is:

	£
Energy utilities total	1,992,589.20
Facilities total	85,865,042.08
ICT total	39,693,899.65
Logistics total	15,982.46
Marketing media total	18,843,738.05
Office Solutions total	1,493,364.65
Personnel related total	1,477,826.68
Professional services consultancy total	6,856,857.54
Professional services financial services total	10,216,143.80
Professional services learning and development total	2,443,493.67
Professional services other total	70,784,921.85

	£
Professional services temporary staff total	4,457,547.39
Travel and events total	2,416,554.35
Vehicles total	422,971.66
Waste management total	181,337.33
Grand total	247,162,270.35

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74212]

Mr Davey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74356]

Mr Davey: Decisions on individuals' development needs are made locally, guided by the Department's Learning and Development Strategy and the central guidance from Civil Service Learning. In 2010-11 average spend per head across BIS and all its agencies was £937.

Details of individual attendance on courses is not held centrally. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Economic Growth

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's preferred measure of economic growth at the local authority level is for measuring progress in implementing the Local Growth White Paper proposals. [74702]

Mr Prisk: The Department has not established a preferred measure to establish progress on implementing the Local Growth White Paper proposals.

Local authorities and local enterprise partnerships are free to choose which measures they use to monitor economic growth in their localities, we would expect these measures to be linked to the interventions they are making.

Where Government funding is being used for those interventions such as through the regional growth fund they will be subject to separate assessment by Government of their impact.

Electronic Equipment: Safety

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what checks his Department requires to be carried out on the safety of electrical goods which are sold by retailers; what his Department's policy is on such goods being sold below cost; and if he will make a statement. [74654]

Mr Davey: The sale of electrical goods is regulated by the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 which require all new electrical goods brought into the supply chain to be safe products to be sold in the market. The Department does not require any specific checks; however responsibility for complying with the regulation is placed on all parties in the supply chain including the manufacturer or the importer into the European economic area. Subject to compliance with competition law, the prices an enterprise charges for its goods and services is a commercial matter for the enterprise concerned.

Energy: Conservation

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on encouraging investment in green industries in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* the Black Country. [73156]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has met the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on a number of occasions to discuss the Government's green growth agenda, including investment in green industries across England as a whole. Discussions have included the latest developments on the regional growth fund and the Green Investment Bank, both of which are potential sources of funding for green industries across the UK. The former is already in operation. It is anticipated that the latter will be operational by summer 2013 although the Government will be in a position to begin making early investments in green projects from April 2012.

European Fighter Aircraft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials from his Department were represented when the decision was taken to slow down orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter. [73860]

Mr Prisk: The decision to slow down orders for Tranche 3A of the Eurofighter Typhoon was taken by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and the agreement signed on 28 July 2011. Officials from UK Trade & Investment's (UKTI) Defence and Security Organisation provided some input on this issue but were not involved in this decision, as it falls within MOD's delegated authority.

Higher Education

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency started *(a)* science, *(b)* technology, *(c)* engineering and *(d)* mathematics degrees in each of the last five years. [74304]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of entrants from Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency to postgraduate and undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses at UK higher education institutions are shown by subject area in the table. Figures are provided for the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Entrants[1] from Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency[2] to postgraduate and undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses by subject area UK higher education institutions, academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10

	2005/06		*2006/07*		*2007/08*		*2008/09*		*2009/10*	
Subject area	*PG*	*UG*	*PG*	*UG*	*PG*	*UG*	*PG*	*UG*	*PG*	*UG*
Medicine and dentistry	5	5	5	10	5	5	5	10	5	10
Subjects allied to medicine	25	160	15	135	15	150	15	155	25	180
Biological sciences	5	45	10	60	5	60	10	55	15	75
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	10
Physical sciences	5	25	5	20	0	25	5	25	5	25
Mathematical sciences	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	5	10
Computer science	5	35	5	25	5	35	5	35	5	35
Engineering and technology	5	30	5	30	5	40	5	25	10	25
Architecture, building and planning	5	25	5	25	5	30	5	25	10	35
Total STEM	55	345	50	320	50	360	50	350	75	400

[1] Covers entrants of all ages to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include entrants where the parliamentary constituency of the student cannot be established due to invalid or missing postcode information.

Notes:

1. Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis.
2. In this table 0, 1 and 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

PG: Postgraduate
UG: Undergraduate

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Higher Education: Mental Health

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what measures are in place to ensure that students with mental health problems in higher education institutions experiencing discrimination as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, are able to seek fair redress; and what his policy is on enforcement of such measures; [74132]

(2) what steps he is taking to address the difference in quality of support available to students with mental health problems at higher education institutions. [74278]

Mr Willetts: Universities have duties under the Equality Act 2010 (which incorporated the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995) to support disabled staff and students in higher education, including those with mental health conditions.

The law establishes a framework of responsibility which higher educations must comply with and also promotes an anticipatory and proactive approach to supporting disabled students, including those suffering from mental illness. This may mean that there will be different approaches taken by different universities on this issue, as they seek to offer provision that anticipates the needs of their students and staff based on the unique circumstances of the institution. Individual institutions will use the law as a baseline standard to establish their own tailored policies, procedures and approaches. The Government have no plans to amend the provisions in the Equality Act 2006 relating to higher education institutions' duties towards disabled students.

There is guidance available to universities on supporting students and staff with mental health conditions from a range of sector and medical bodies, including the Heads of University Counselling Services, the Association of Managers of Student Services in Higher Education (AMOSSHE), the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the former Disability Rights Commission and most recently from the UniversitiesUK/Guild HE Working Group for the Promotion of Mental Well-Being in Higher Education.

Students can use an institution's internal complaints process to raise any concerns about discrimination and pursue their complaint with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) if they have exhausted the internal processes and remain dissatisfied with the outcome. Universities are subject to the courts in the application of these duties. Any student who feels they have been discriminated can seek legal advice about their situation, and the advice of the Equality and Human Rights Commission which provides guidance on discrimination matters and has a statutory enforcement role (established in the Equality Act 2006).

Higher Education: Private Sector

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from private equity firms on his Department's Higher Education White Paper. [73396]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not maintain a list of the corporate status of organisations that have made representations on the Higher Education White Paper.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

A full list of respondents to the White Paper will be available in due course.

India: EU Countries

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken towards establishing a free trade agreement between the EU and India. [73276]

Mr Davey: The UK continues to press the Indian Government, the European Commission and member states to conclude the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA). At the Trade Foreign Affairs Council on 26 September, I called for the EU to make a collective effort to push for an ambitious FTA which delivers on UK and EU priorities, emphasising the game-changing nature of the deal.

Korea: EU Countries

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of the expected increase in EU-Korea trade resulting from the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement which will be UK-Korea trade. [73299]

Mr Davey: The UK will gain an estimated £500 million a year in gross domestic product (GDP) from the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which represents 12% of the estimated total EU GDP gain.

Land Registry

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of property transactions in each price band in *(a)* London and *(b)* England that were not recorded by the Land Registry or subject to a property tax. [74309]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available. HMRC does not have details of land transactions where no land transaction return was required for stamp duty land tax (SDLT) purposes. HM Land Registry does not have details of transactions that are not registered.

HMRC released an estimate of the SDLT tax gap in its Measuring Tax Gaps publication, which can be found in the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/mtg-2011.pdf

Land Rover: Wolverhampton

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support he plans to provide to the proposed Jaguar Land Rover engine plant in Wolverhampton for the manufacture of low-emission engines. [73006]

Mr Prisk: Government have offered regional aid of up to £10 million through the 'Grant for Business Investment' scheme to support Jaguar Land Rover's investment in a new engine plant in Wolverhampton.

Minimum Wage

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* Livingston constituency, *(b)* West Lothian local authority area and *(c)* Scotland paid no more than the national minimum wage have benefitted from the most recent increase in the national minimum wage. [74108]

Mr Davey: Reliable figures cannot be produced for Livingston or West Lothian due to the small sample size.

BIS estimates that around 71,000 people in Scotland stood to benefit from the October 2011 uprating of all of the national minimum wage rates. BIS has based this estimate on the April 2010 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Multinational Companies: Company Accounts

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to improve transparency in financial reporting by *(a)* individuals, *(b)* companies registered in the UK and *(c)* multinational companies. [73864]

Mr Davey: The Government are currently considering the future framework for financial reporting in the UK. The views of business and the professions are being sought on "The Future of Narrative Reporting" and "Audit Exemptions and Change of Accounting Framework". The closing dates for responses to these consultation documents are 25 November and 29 December respectively. Further, a discussion document, "Simpler Reporting for the Smallest Businesses", has been published exploring how the burden of reporting requirements might be eased for this business sector. Responses are requested by 30 October. The Government will consider how financial reporting for UK businesses might be improved in light of the responses received.

Non-domestic Rates

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on proposals to reform business rates. [74700]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), about the Government's proposals to allow local retention of business rates. These proposals are the subject of public consultation until 24 October.

Public Houses: Rents

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will consider including permission for tied publicans to opt out of the tie at each rent review in his code of practice for pub companies; [73736]

(2) if he will consider introducing a requirement for rent reviews to be based on capital and rental valuations in his code of practice for pub companies. [73737]

Mr Davey: The Government do not have a code of practice for pub companies. The Government are currently considering the recommendations made in the BIS Committee's most recent 'Pub Companies' report and will be responding in due course.

Research: Expenditure

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of trends in expenditure on research and development by companies in the last 12 months. [75054]

Mr Willetts: The most recent figures for UK Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) were published in December 2010 and showed:

In 2009, in cash terms and compared with 2008:

Total R&D expenditure decreased by 2.5% to £15.6 billion

In 2009, in real terms (2009 prices) and compared with 2008:

Total expenditure decreased by 4.1% to £15.6 billion

The Office for National Statistics will publish UK BERD 2010 expenditure figures in November 2011.

Small Businesses: Copyright

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned to quantify the effects of design infringement on small businesses. [73523]

Mr Davey: In September 2011 the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) published the results of independent research into design economics.

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ipresearch-right-design

This added to existing evidence about the difficulties faced by small businesses seeking to protect design. Further research is now under consideration, while other work by the IPO—a 'call for evidence' on design IP, together with an online survey—will help identify potential solutions.

Student Finance England: Complaints

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to review the efficiency of Student Finance England; and how many complaints Student Finance England received in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [74617]

Mr Willetts: Student Finance England (SFE) is the service for English-domiciled students applying for financial support in higher education and is administered by the Student Loans Company (SLC). The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) reviews the performance and efficiency of the SLC, including its SFE service, on an ongoing basis. This includes through formal reviews assessing performance against targets agreed in SLC's Annual Performance and Resource Agreement (APRA).

SLC records all the complaints it receives and the following table summarises the number of complaints received by SLC in 2008, 2009 and 2010. A breakdown of these figures to show the number of complaints relating to SFE in particular is not readily available.

By way of context, the increase in the number of complaints since 2008 could be seen to be commensurate with the increase in SLC's work. The SLC took over responsibility from English local authorities for student finance assessments over a three-year period starting with new applicants for the 2009/10 academic year and ending with all applicants for the 2011/12 academic year. For the 2009/10 academic year SLC received 470,000 applications, for the 2010/11 academic year this figure increased to 800,000.

This year (for the 2011/12 academic year) the SLC has already received over one million applications.

Complaints received by the SLC

Financial year	*Number of cases*
2008-09	2,176
2009-10	2,566
2010-11	5,810
Total	10,552

Students Loans Company

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of occasions the Student Loans Company has reassessed a student loan following representations from a university in the academic year 2010-11. [73684]

Mr Willetts: Information on the number of occasions the Student Loans Company (SLC) has reassessed a student loan following representations from a university is not held by the Department or the SLC.

There are many reasons why there may be a reassessment of a student's loan and there could be many re-assessments conducted on an individual account due to a combination of these reasons. These include the annual assessments which take place at the start of each academic year, routine internal audit checks, and notified changes of circumstances such as changes in university course, a drop in family income or a change from living at home to living away from home.

Data are not collated on the total numbers of reassessments or the reasons why they are triggered.

Students Loans Company: Complaints

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints were made against the Student Loans Company in each of the last five years. [73682]

Mr Willetts: Correspondence received by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) in relation to the Student Loans Company (SLC) since 2007 is set out in Table 1 as follows. A breakdown of these figures to show the number of complaints about the company's operations is not readily available and individual correspondence cases would need to be examined to determine this. Doing so would be a disproportionate cost.

The SLC records all the complaints it receives and the figures since 2007 are summarised in Table 2 as follows. By way of context, the progressive increase in the level of complaints could be seen to be commensurate to the progressive increase in SLC's work since 2009 when it took over responsibility from English local authorities for student finance assessments over a three-year period starting with new applicants for the 2009/10 academic year and ending with all applicants for the 2011/12 academic year. For the 2009/10 academic year SLC received 470,000 applications, for the 2010/11 academic year this figure increased to 800,000, and this year (for the 2011/12 academic year) the SLC has already received over one million applications.

Table 1: Correspondence received by BIS and its predecessors in relation to the SLC

Calendar year	*Number of cases*
2007	1,953
2008	2,722
2009	3,070
2010	4,198
2011 (to date)	502
Total	12,445

Table 2: Complaints received by the SLC

Financial year	*Number of cases*
2007-08	2,080
2008-09	2,176
2009-10	2,566
2010-11	5,810
2011-12 (to date)	3,419
Total	16,051

Students: Finance

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department issues to the Student Loans Company on determining loan and grant settlements for students who have interrupted their studies due to illness. [73683]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company determines loans and grant settlements for students who have interrupted their studies due to illness in accordance with the Education (Student Support) Regulations, which are laid before Parliament each year.

Student Finance England also issues detailed guidance covering all aspects of student support on their HE Practitioners website, including support for students who have interrupted their studies due to illness. This guidance complies with the Education (Student Support) Regulations.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial support is available to students who suspend their studies due to illness. [73685]

Mr Willetts: The student support system allows a student who is ill to suspend their studies by arrangement with their university or college and resume them at an arranged date.

Full-time students who have suspended their studies will continue to be eligible for grants and loans for living costs if their absence does not exceed 60 days. If the absence exceeds 60 days, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has discretion to continue paying such grants and loans if he decides it is appropriate to do so.

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prevent large retailers from selling items below cost price. [74809]

Mr Davey: The Government have no plans to legislate in this area. Competition matters related to the pricing of goods and services fall to the Office of Fair Trading as the responsible independent competition authority.

Technology Strategy Board

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of funding provided from the Technology Strategy Board has gone to companies that are not university spin-offs. [72797]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board has supported over 4,000 businesses through a range of programmes and funding opportunities in the last four years and most of its programmes are open to companies of all sizes across the UK. It does not specifically target support at university spin-outs, but programmes such as Grant for Research and Development (R and D) and Eurostars are available only to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Disaggregating the data held on companies benefiting from the range of Technology Strategy Board funding to identify recent spin-outs can only be provided at disproportionate cost, but a recent evaluation of its Collaborative R and D indicated that 4% of the businesses supported were spin-outs from a university or college.

Metals: Theft

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effects on businesses of levels of metal theft. [73151]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is working with the Home Office who are leading the discussions with other Government Departments on the impact of metal theft on businesses and seeking to develop a range of potential solutions to this problem.

Trade Promotion: Environment Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with UK-registered businesses involved in the Global Green Growth Forum on growth in the low carbon sector. [74655]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has had discussions with a large number of businesses, both UK-registered as well as those registered overseas, as a normal part of his departmental responsibilities. Many of those businesses are involved in low carbon sectors and may also be involved in the Global Green Growth Forum as well as other organisations.

Trade Unions: Public Expenditure

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been paid to trade unions from the public purse in each of the last 10 financial years. [74126]

Mr Davey: I am unable to answer my hon. Friend's question in full because the cost incurred by BIS officials retrieving data from all the Whitehall Departments, as well as other public bodies, over such a long period of time would be disproportionate.

However, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State, Business, Innovation and Skills, my noble Friend, Baroness Wilcox, to my noble Friend, Lord Ashcroft on 22 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA288. The numbers, placed in the Libraries of the House, give a full breakdown of direct funding from the main central Government sources for the last four years from 2007/08 to 2011/12.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings officials in his Department's alcohol policy team have had with representatives of the *(a)* drinks industry and *(b)* drinks marketing industry since the team was established. [74053]

Anne Milton: Officials in the alcohol policy team, which was established in October 2007, meet with drinks industry representatives on a regular basis in the course of their normal activities.

Since May 2010, there have been approximately 84 such meetings with representatives of the drinks industry and one such meeting with marketing industry. This includes meetings with groups of people including non-industry representatives, such as the Responsibility Deal Alcohol Network.

Bone Marrow Register

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider introducing a scheme to encourage university students to donate a blood sample for inclusion on the bone marrow register. [73018]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant, which is funded by the Department to manage the British Bone Marrow Registry (BBMR) runs promotional campaigns, including attendance of university fresher fairs, to encourage students to register as blood donors. Once people are registered as blood donors, they can join the BBMR when attending a blood donation session if they meet any additional criteria.

Cardiovascular System: Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the uptake of cardiac rehabilitation services in England by patients with acute myocardial infarction; and if he will make a statement; [74078]

(2) what consideration he has given to increasing the collection and publication of data on acute myocardial infarction and cardiac rehabilitation services in England; and if he will make a statement. [74079]

Mr Simon Burns: The Prime Minister, in his letter of 7 July 2011 to Cabinet Ministers on transparency and open data, committed to publishing key data on the national health service including clinical audit data detailing the performance of publicly funded clinical teams in treating key conditions. This includes clinical audit data from the Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP), part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme, which is funded by the Department and managed by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership on our behalf.

MINAP collects data on the percentage of people referred for cardiac rehabilitation and this information will be published in future annual reports.

In addition, there is data on uptake of cardiac rehabilitation in the latest National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation (NACR) annual report, which can be found on the NACR's website:

www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk/nacr/docs/2010.pdf

This includes information about the number of patients who have had cardiac rehabilitation following a myocardial infarction.

Care Homes: Expenditure

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what comparative assessment he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer including housing, care, benefits and other costs of adults in *(a)* residential care, *(b)* supported living and *(c)* domiciliary care. [73049]

Paul Burstow: Data on local authority expenditure on publicly-funded social care services for adults are collected from councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. The Information Centre does not collect data for expenditure on "supported living" alone. "Supported living" is included in a wider category of "supported and other accommodation". The most recently published data relate to 2009-10. Data for 2010-11 are expected to be published on 30 November 2011.

The following table shows gross current expenditure on residential care, supported and other accommodation and domiciliary care by CASSRs in England, 2009-10.

Gross current expenditure[1] in 2009-10	*Total (£000)*
Residential care[2]	7,266,200
Supported and other accommodation[3]	555,900
Domiciliary care	6,924,400

Notes:

[1] The total expenditure, minus income from joint arrangements, the national health service, other income sources (but not client contributions, which are not netted off) and capital charges.

[2] Includes nursing care.

[3] Includes hostels, adult placements schemes, group homes, un-staffed homes, partially staffed homes, sheltered housing costs not applicable to the Housing Revenue Account, extra care housing schemes and supported living and community support services.

Source:

Form PSS EX1, NHS Information Centre

Data on benefits and housing costs are not collected by the Information Centre.

Cataracts: Health Services

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been refused cataract treatment since the changes to eligibility criteria. [73404]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not set eligibility criteria for cataract surgery. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning services, taking into account the available evidence and the needs of the local population. PCTs are required to make decisions on the funding of drugs and treatments rationally, and following proper consideration of the evidence. If a PCT decides to prioritise funding for alternative drugs or treatments, it should be able to explain its decision and rationale. We have been clear that this should not lead to any blanket bans on procedures, and local processes should ensure eligibility criteria for procedures can take account of individuals' health care circumstances.

Childbirth

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births per full-time equivalent NHS midwife there were in each region in 2010. [73919]

Anne Milton: The following table contains the birth to national health service midwife (full-time equivalent) ratios by strategic health authority.

Birth: Midwives (including bank staff)

2010	*Ratio*
North East	1:29.3
North West	1:29.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	1:31.7
East Midlands	1:38.2
West Midlands	1:32.0
East of England	1:37.9
London	1:32.7
South East Coast	1:33.8
South Central	1:39.3
South West	1:30.7
England	1:33.0

CJD

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking in respect of asymptomatic carriers of vCJD. [73526]

Anne Milton: Because of the scientific uncertainties about the incubation period of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) and the potential level of unidentified asymptomatic infection in the population the Department focuses on managing the potential risks of person to person transmission. Given the uncertainties, evidence based and cost effective steps are taken to reduce the potential secondary spread. The following actions are amongst those taken with respect of the risk of anyone potentially carrying the abnormal prion protein associated with human prion diseases such as vCJD.

Since December 1997, blood components, plasma products or tissues obtained from any individual who later develops vCJD, have been withdrawn to prevent their use.

Since October 1999, white blood cells have been reduced in all blood used for transfusion, a process known as leucodepletion or leucoreduction.

Since April 2004 individuals who had themselves received a transfusion of blood components since January 1980 were excluded from donating blood, and since July 2004, this exclusion criterion was extended to include two new groups, who had received transfusions of blood components since 1980:

Previously transfused platelet donors; and

Donors who were unsure if they had previously had a blood transfusion.

These criteria now apply to donors who have been transfused anywhere in the world.

Since 1999, plasma for the manufacture of fractionated plasma products, such as the clotting factors for treating patients with bleeding disorders, has been obtained from non-United Kingdom sources; and synthetic (recombinant) clotting factors have been provided to those up to the age of 16 since 1998 and for all patients for whom it is suitable since 2005.

Fresh frozen plasma for treating babies and young children born on or after 1 January 1996 has been obtained from the United States, and from July 2005 its use was extended to all children up to the age of 16.

For over ten years the independent scientific Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Management Sub-Group has also issued guidance on managing potential transmission risks. This includes guidance on quarantining surgical instruments, on endoscopy, on management of instruments and tissues from brain biopsy procedures, on assessments carried out before surgery and/or endoscopy, on risk in ophthalmology and on handling of tissues from patients. ACDP's guidance is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACDP/TSEguidance/index.htm

The CJD Incidents Panel has since 2000 provided specific advice and guidance to health services on how to manage incidents involving possible transmission of CJD between patients, including those who may be asymptomatic. The Panel also provides advice on the notification of individuals where it is calculated that they are at potentially higher risk of vCJD than the general population (usually an additional 1% risk). Public information on the Panel's activities can be found at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/
HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/
1204031511121

The Department funds studies to help ascertain the presence of abnormal prion protein present in the United Kingdom population. These include a study of appendix and tonsil tissue published in 2004, the National Anonymous Tonsil Archive and an ongoing study of appendix tissue.

The independent scientific ACDP Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Assessment Sub-Group keeps the evidence of the asymptomatic presence of abnormal prion protein associated with human prion disease under review, the outputs are used by the groups tasked with advising on risk management, including the ACDP Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Management Sub-Group, the CJD Incidents Panel and the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) at what levels suspected infectivity of vCJD would need to be reached for the Government to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs; [74537]

(2) what levels of suspected infectivity of vCJD would need to be indicated by research for the Government to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs; [74538]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with Imperial College on the issue of fresh frozen plasma; and with reference to the updated modelling evidence produced by Imperial College, how long he expects the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs to take to review its recommendations. [74541]

Anne Milton: The Government will continue to consider advice and recommendations from independent scientific Advisory Committees, along with impact assessments of those recommendations, related to the scenarios used in assessing the potential risk of person to person transmission of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) and the implications of those scenarios. Current scenario modelling considers among other inputs the prevalence of infective individuals, the infectivity level of blood and susceptibility to clinical infection.

Currently the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) and the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) are considering these issues, and the evidence from the Imperial College model is part of those considerations. It is expected that the committees will finalise their assessments in 2012.

The latest ACDP papers are publicly available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACDP/TSEguidance/DH_125868

and SaBTO papers at:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/SaBTO/index.htm

CJD: Disease Control

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of fresh frozen plasma were issued by NHS Blood and Transplant in the latest year for which figures are available. [74539]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant issues fresh frozen plasma to hospitals in England and North Wales. In 2010-11, 255,488 units were issued for use in adults and children; and 7,289 units were issued for use in neonates. A neonatal unit is one quarter of the volume of an adult unit.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what cost was incurred by NHS Blood and Transplant in collecting, testing, processing and issuing of *(a)* red blood cells, *(b)* platelets and *(c)* fresh frozen plasma in the latest year for which figures are available. [74540]

Anne Milton: The available information is shown in the following table.

Budgeted costs incurred by NHS Blood and Transplant in financial year 2010-11

	Red cells (£)	*Platelets*	*Plasma[1] (£)*
Collection	88,892,439	16,901,323	—
Processing	30,506,676	4,633,314	4,949,045
Testing	24,168,171	5,344,366	—
Order processing, issue and despatch	6,627,925	1,577,516	1,208,556
Validation, discard and storage	4,268,090	1,123,021	1,281,639
Total cost	154,463,301	29,579,540	7,439,240

[1] There are no costs for collection or testing of plasma as plasma is a by product of the whole blood donation. The whole blood donation is tested before the plasma is separated out (most of which is then discarded).

Note:

NHS Blood and Transplant collects blood donations in England and North Wales.

Source:

NHS Blood and Transplant

Dementia: Drugs

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the use of anti-psychotic medication to treat people with dementia. [73468]

Paul Burstow: We want to see a two-thirds reduction in the level of prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia by November 2011 and we have commissioned an audit to measure this.

The Dementia Action Alliance supported by the NHS Institute and the Department of Health launched a 'National Call to Action' on 9 June 2011, with the aim of ensuring that by 31 March 2012 all 180,000 people with dementia, who are receiving anti-psychotic drugs will have undergone a clinical review, to ensure that their care is compliant with current best practice and guidelines and that alternatives to their prescription have been considered.

Reducing the use of anti-psychotic medication is a key element of the Dementia Commissioning Pack which is supported by a multi-disciplinary care pathway for the management of agitation in people with dementia and for the review of medication on people already receiving anti-psychotics.

The Department provided funding of £1.9 million in December 2010 to enable all strategic health authorities (SHAs) to accelerate improvements in prescribing practice. Each SHA has committed to undertaking audits of current practice on anti-psychotic prescribing for people with dementia that cover prescribing by acute and community hospital doctors, prescribing by psychiatrists, prescribing by general practitioners and prescribing in care homes. This work will report in the autumn.

The Department has also contributed £100,000 to the Alzheimer's Society FITS (Focussed Intervention Training Scheme) programme. The overarching aim of the programme is to reduce the use of anti-psychotics in care homes. The FITS programme delivers a 10-day training course to nominated health professionals. These individuals disseminate the information as a trainer and act as a Dementia Champion in their care home.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74335]

Mr Simon Burns: The data for July and August 2010 are 97.76%, and 97.96%, respectively. These percentages were published on the Department's website in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) the current and (ii) the next financial year; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74334]

Mr Simon Burns: In the current financial year, it is planned to carry out refurbishment projects in Richmond House, costing £1,575,000, to increase its efficiency and underlying infrastructure. Similar projects costing £994,000 have already been completed.

No plans have yet been formulated for the following financial year.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73105]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's current procedures include several controls to ensure the consultancy requirement is essential and will provide best value for money. Appropriately approved procurement routes are used to engage consultancy services. Each consultancy requirement has a Statement of Operational Necessity and Business Case set out and approved within the Department. Further approvals are then obtained from senior officials and Ministers dependent upon the value of the proposed contract. All approvals procedures are in accordance with the Cabinet Office controls for consultancy expenditure within central Government.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on management consultants in each of the last five years. [73508]

Mr Simon Burns: The figures for expenditure on external management consultants for the core Department of Health for the last five financial years are as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	205
2007-08	132
2008-09	102
2009-10	108
2010-11	9.8

Departmental Correspondence

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average amount of time taken by his Department is to reply to letters from hon. Members *(a)* in total and *(b)* of each political party. [73704]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department took an average of 13 working days to reply to correspondence received between 1 January and 31 August 2011 from hon. Members. The following table shows the average number of working days it took to respond to hon. Members within the same time-period, split by political party.

Party	*Working days*
Alliance Party	13
Conservative Party	14
Democratic Unionist Party	13
Green Party	16
Independent Members	11
Labour Party	13
Liberal Democrat Party	13
Plaid Cymru	11
Social Democratic and Labour Party	11
Scottish National Party	10
Speaker	14

Transport-related Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2007; and at what cost. [74337]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department and its predecessors have not settled any transport related fines on behalf of its staff in any year from 2007. This is in line with Departmental policy and the Civil Service Code, which states:

> "Departments and agencies must reimburse staff only for expenses which they actually and necessarily incur in the course of official business."

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73666]

Mr Simon Burns: The information held on the Department's business management system is as shown in the following table. Due to the procedures employed by the Department which score expenditure on the system in the month in which an invoice is processed and paid, the figures do not necessarily relate to the costs incurred in the months in question. The figures show the total spend by Ministers' private offices on hospitality and catering and this will typically include purchases of teas, coffees, lunches and refreshments. The system does not have the facility to report on whether these purchases were for specific events or meetings.

£

	2010			2011								
Minister	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*
Secretary of State for Health (Andrew Lansley)	39.08	0.00	24.00	0.00	126.72	28.00	0.00	40.95	52.81	32.00	24.00	20.00
Minister of State (Simon Burns)	4.62	19.32	0.00	99.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Minister of State (Paul Burstow)	4.85	0.00	204.95	8.08	0.00	11.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Anne Milton)	0.00	0.00	30.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.59	0.00	40.25	0.00	0.00
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe)	0.00	0.00	41.88	0.00	53.96	45.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73189]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost of running the Procurement Directorate within the Department was £1,553,145 for financial year 2009-10, and £1,618,800 for financial year 2010-11. It is not possible to provide comparative figures for 2008-9 as the Department obtained a procurement service at the time from the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. The Procurement Directorate consists of a mix of civil servants and non-permanent workers.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73834]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has formally adopted the Government's policy announced in February 2011 to eliminate the use of pre-qualification questionnaires (PQQ) for all central Government procurements under £100,000.

A central tracking system has been in place on the Department's procurement database since August; a report shows that no procurement competitions have been undertaken since that month using a PQQ for procurements with a value of less than £100,000.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department has entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74205]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's central procurement database, which has provided the information in the following table, holds information at the level of purchase order (PO)—these are individual items of expenditure—rather than contract. The category of expenditure is for 'suppliers'; the majority will certainly be external private suppliers but the figures do include some non-private expenditure (voluntary or public sector).

The following table provides information about the number of POs awarded within the bands specified for the current financial year and the last two closed financial years. The Department's central procurement database was only established in July 2008; prior to this date such data were not collated centrally within the Department. To gather information for financial year 2008-09 and earlier years would require us to contact all directorates and branches within the Department to check their individual records; this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Band (£)	*Number of purchase orders*
FY 2009-10	
100,000 to 500,000	154
500,000 to 1,000,000	11
1,000,000 to 5,000,000	11
5,000,000 to 10,000,000	4
50,000,000 to 100,000,000	1
100,000,000 to 500,000,000	24
FY 2010-11	
100,000 to 500,000	59
500,000 to 1,000,000	23
1,000,000 to 5,000,000	12
5,000,000 to 10,000,000	6
10,000,000 to 50,000,000	7
FY 2011-12	
100,000 to 500,000	27
500,000 to 1,000,000	5
1,000,000 to 5,000,000	10
5,000,000 to 10,000,000	2
50,000,000 to 100,000,000	0

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72935]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost of furniture and fittings purchased by the Department in the last year (October 2010 to September 2011) is £135,502.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74336]

Mr Simon Burns: From August 2010 until July 2011, the last 12 month period for which we have figures, £411,629.64 was spent from the Department's central training budget. This figure includes the costs of external courses and those where the central Department brought in external training provision.

Information is not held centrally about the cost of locally commissioned training, funded by directorates within the Department, nor is information held on how many external courses were attended by staff.

Diabetes: Children

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to help prevent childhood diabetes. [74226]

Paul Burstow: The majority of children with diabetes have Type 1 diabetes, which is not currently preventable.

Although it is much rarer in children than Type 1, there is a strong evidence base closely linking Type 2 diabetes with obesity and inactivity. The Government are helping to prevent Type 2 diabetes in children by tackling obesity and inactivity through schemes such as Change4Life, the National Child Measurement programme, and the Healthy Child programme.

Diabetes: Screening

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to offer blood sugar checks alongside eye tests; [73016]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve early diagnosis rates for diabetes. [73017]

Paul Burstow: We are aware of the importance of diagnosing diabetes as early as possible in the course of the disease, if patients are to get optimal outcomes. The main strategy for securing this early diagnosis is through the roll out of the NHS Health Checks programme. There are no plans to offer blood sugar checks alongside eye tests.

With around 15 million people eligible, the NHS Health Check programme is a major public health programme for people in England aged 40-74 aimed at preventing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. Everyone having an NHS Health Check will have their risk of developing these diseases assessed, and will be supported to reduce or manage that risk through appropriate lifestyle advice, support and management.

Phased implementation of the programme by primary care trusts (PCTs) began in April 2009. The NHS Health Check programme is a supporting measure in the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12; and PCTs have been provided with funding in their baselines to support this activity.

Disease Control

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets his Department has set for the reduction of non-communicable diseases. [73062]

Anne Milton: We will set out in the Public Health Outcomes Framework the key priorities for improving the public's health and provide a means for local and national transparency and accountability.

We consulted on a broad range of indicators as part of our proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework. Among a number of indicators, the consultation proposed a number relating to non-communicable diseases including the following:

Mortality rate from all cardiovascular disease (including heart disease and stroke) persons less than 75 years of age;

Mortality rate from cancer in persons less than 75 years of age;

Mortality rate from chronic liver disease in persons under 75 years of age; and

Mortality rate from chronic respiratory diseases in persons less than 75 years of age.

These proposals received strong support from stakeholders, and following consultation and further development, we are considering whether to include these indicators within the final framework which we expect to publish in the autumn.

Donors: Health Education

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of schools that are using the NHS Blood and Transplants Give and Let Live blood and organ donation education pack *(a)* in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* in its first year of availability. [75100]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant's (NHSBT) "Give and Let Live" pack, designed for 14 to 16 year olds, helps young people learn about the importance of organ, blood, tissue and bone marrow donation in life and after death. NHSBT has informed the Department that in 2007-08, when the Give and Let Live packs were launched, 1,776 schools ordered the pack, and research by NHSBT showed that 21%, of teachers used the pack in two to three lessons. In 2009-10, (the latest figures available), 5,568 schools ordered the pack and 51%, of teachers used the pack in two to three lessons. In 2009-10, 92% of teachers who used the pack said they found it useful or very useful.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: Research

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided for research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [74705]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department spent £0.4 million on directly-funded research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in 2010-11. A figure for 2011-12 is not yet available.

Eating Disorders

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were admitted to hospital for eating disorders in each of the last five years; [74530]

(2) how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls aged (i) under 10, (ii) between 10 and 18 and (iii) over 18 years were admitted to hospital for eating disorders in each of the last five years; [74531]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of the treatment of eating disorders in the last year for which figures are available. [74532]

Paul Burstow: Details of the number of finished admission episodes for which the primary diagnosis is an eating disorder are in the following tables.

	0 to 18 years	*18+ years*	*Unknown age*	*Total for the year*
2009-10	885	1,179	3	2,067
2008-09	902	965	1	1,868
2007-08	875	996	1	1,872
2006-07	814	1,087	23	1,924
2005-06	742	1,431	9	1,882

	Male					*Females*					
	0 to 9 years	*10 to 18 years*	*Over 18 years*	*Unknown age*	*Total males*	*0 to 9 years*	*10 to 18 years*	*Over 18 years*	*Unknown age*	*Total females*	*Total for the year*
2009-10	11	87	98	1	197	19	768	1,081	2	1,870	2,067
2008-09	13	75	94	—	182	8	806	871	1	1,686	1,868
2007-08	6	73	81	—	160	19	777	915	1	1,712	1,872
2006-07	20	87	94	2	203	18	689	993	21	1,721	1,924
2005-06	12	86	101	1	200	18	626	1,030	8	1,682	1,882

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

We have made no estimate of the cost of treating eating disorders.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of government business. [73210]

Mr Simon Burns: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Food: Health Hazards

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reduce trans fats in food. [74650]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 568W.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amounts, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Department using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73441]

Mr Simon Burns: The document containing the information requested has been placed in the Library. It also contains information for financial year 2010-11 and Level 3 transaction information, which is only available for financial year 2010-11.

The information is not available prior to May 2008 because this is when the Department's reporting database tool used to extract the information was set up. Attempting to provide information prior to May 2008 would mean sifting through individual cardholder paper files and extracting the information manually, which would incur disproportionate costs.

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73723]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has arranged with Barclaycard (the card provider for this Department's Government Procurement Card transactions) that access to automated teller machines is blocked. So it is not possible for withdrawals to be made.

Health and Social Care Bill

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on providing that the right of appeal for patients who are dissatisfied with the NHS service they receive can be made to a locally accountable body following the implementation of the Health and Social Care Bill. [74074]

Mr Simon Burns: The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 allow for a complaint about NHS services to be made to either the commissioner or the provider of those NHS services.

We envisage that the principles underlying these arrangements will continue following the implementation of the Health and Social Care Bill. A complaint would be made either to the provider of the service or to either the NHS Commissioning Board or Clinical Commissioning Group.

If a complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of their complaint at this local level, they will continue to be able to take their complaint to the Health Service Ombudsman.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that the commissioning function remains a public function carried out by a public body following the implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [74076]

Mr Simon Burns: Yes. This policy is already reflected in the Health and Social Care Bill. The National Health Service Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups established in accordance with the provisions proposed by the Health and Social Care Bill would be statutory public bodies and, as such, would be responsible for the exercise of their statutory functions. As now, NHS commissioners could arrange for external organisations to provide support for commissioning, but statutory responsibility for commissioning decisions would continue to rest with the NHS Commissioning Board or the clinical commissioning group.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that Directors of Public Health retain autonomy following the implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [74086]

Anne Milton: The Health and Social Care Bill gives local authorities clear duties for improving the health of their local populations. The Bill also says that they must employ a director of public health to deliver these public health functions. Directors of public health will undertake these functions in a professional, impartial and objective way within the corporate structure of their local authority. The Bill also requires directors of public health to write an annual report that can chart local progress; local authorities must publish this report.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to seek the removal of Clause 4 from the Health and Social Care Bill. [74137]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government believe that clause 4 of the Bill achieves the right balance of autonomy and accountability, ensuring that the Secretary of State for Health retains ultimate responsibility for the NHS while empowering those closest to patients to take clinical decisions.

However, as the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Paul Burstow), made clear during Commons Report and the Under-Secretary of State for Health my noble Friend, Earl Howe, reiterated at Lords Second Reading, we are willing to listen to and consider the concerns that have been raised and make any necessary amendment to put it beyond doubt that the Secretary of State remains responsible and accountable for a comprehensive health service.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential impact of implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill on vulnerable households; and if he will make a statement. [74273]

Mr Simon Burns: The Equality Analysis for the Health and Social Care Bill assesses the equality impact of the reforms set out in the Bill. In carrying out this analysis the Department considered the impact in relation to age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race and ethnicity; religion and belief; sex; sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

The Equality Analysis can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to involve allied health professionals and the health clinicians in strategic planning through joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies; [74081]

(2) whether he plans to place Health and Wellbeing Boards under a statutory duty to gain specialist advice from allied health professionals and other NHS clinicians. [74082]

Anne Milton: Beyond the minimum membership set out in the Health and Social Care Bill, local authorities and the Health and Wellbeing Boards will be able to invite other members with particular skills and expertise, including representatives of the allied health professions or other national health service clinicians.

The membership of Health and Wellbeing Boards should be determined locally. Too much prescription would prevent local membership from being determined in a way that reflects local needs and priorities.

It is important to be clear that the purpose of this policy is not just about setting up a committee, but about stimulating effective joint working for and with local people and communities.

Membership is not the only way to get involved with the work of Health and Wellbeing Boards. We expect that Health and Wellbeing Boards will want to ensure they have wider mechanisms in place to draw on the expertise of other groups, including allied health professionals and other NHS clinicians, when developing their Joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and well-being strategies.

Health Services: EU Nationals

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been recovered from EU countries for citizens of those countries who received medical care from the NHS in the latest year for which figures are available. [75099]

Anne Milton: For the year 2010-11, the Department received payments totalling £51.7 million from European Economic Area countries for citizens of those countries who received medical care from the national health service.

The £51.7 million quoted is under European Union Regulations and relates to healthcare provided to temporary visitors using a European Health Insurance Card; workers posted to the United Kingdom by their employer, patient referrals and state pensioners residing in the UK.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid by the UK Government to EU member states under the European Health Insurance Card scheme in each of the last five years; how much is owed by the UK Government to EU member states under the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [73757]

Anne Milton: The following table provides available information of payments to member states. The amounts relate to combined claims for temporary visitors (via European Health Insurance Cards), workers temporarily posted abroad by their employer and referrals for treatment in other European economic area countries. Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not currently possible to disaggregate the data consistently for all member states by either type of claim or type of treatment.

	£
2007-08	93,200,000
2008-09	113,200,000
2009-10	117,900,000
2010-11	62,400,000

Notes:
1. £ equivalent totals based on exchange rates at the time of the payment.
2. Totals are rounded to the nearest £100,000.
3. Comparable data for years prior to 2007-08 are not available.

The amount owed by the United Kingdom for equivalent claims submitted up to and including the financial year 2010-11 is £65.5 million.

Heart Diseases: Children

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he has had to discuss the Children's Congenital Cardiac Services Review; and how many of those meetings *(a)* included and *(b)* excluded discussion of Leeds General Infirmary's Heart Unit. [73705]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has kept abreast of the progress of the Children's Congenital Cardiac Services Review through submissions and meetings with officials. The Secretary of State for Health has met with Cystic Fibrosis Trust, and while it was discussed, the focus of his meeting was not on the Children's Congenital Cardiac Services Review. He also met with hon. Members from the Yorkshire and Humber region to discuss the terms of a backbench business committee debate rather than specific issues concerning the paediatric unit at the Leeds General Infirmary.

HIV Infection

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what metrics to assess the extent of late diagnosis of HIV by local authorities and primary care trusts will be contained in his Department's Public Health Outcomes Framework; [73388]

(2) what targets he plans to set for early diagnosis and treatment of HIV in his Department's Public Health Outcomes Framework. [73389]

Anne Milton: The Public Health Outcomes Framework will set out the key priorities for improving the public's health and provide a means for local and national transparency and accountability. It will be for local authorities with their partners to agree the level of improvement they will wish to make against public health indicators in line with the Outcomes Framework.

We consulted on a broad range of indicators as part of our proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework. Among a number of indicators the consultation proposed an indicator on the "Proportion of persons presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection". This proposal received strong support from stakeholders, and following consultation and further development, we are considering the inclusion of this indicator within the final framework which we expect to publish in the autumn.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the potential savings to other parts of the NHS budget which could arise from increasing early diagnosis of HIV in each of the next four financial years; [73401]

(2) what resources his Department plans to provide to primary care trusts to increase the early diagnosis of HIV in each of the next four financial years. [73402]

Anne Milton: The Department recognise the benefits of early HIV diagnosis which include preventing the onward transmission of HIV, improved treatment outcomes for patients and savings to the national health service. In March 2011, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its public health guidance "Increasing the uptake of HIV testing in men who have sex with men" and "Increasing the uptake of HIV testing among black Africans in England", the groups most affected by HIV in the United Kingdom. The NICE accompanying costing report included a local costing template to assess the local impact of implementing the NICE guidelines including the costs and saving to the NHS. Both the guidance and the costing report are available on the NICE website at:

www.nice.org.uk/Search.do?keywords=HIV&tsearch
submit=GO&searchSite=on&searchType=All&newSearch=1

In 2009-10, the Department funded eight pilot projects to assess different models for expanding HIV testing in non-specialist health care settings in primary and secondary care. In September 2011 the Health Protection Agency published a report of their review of all eight projects—"Time to test for HIV: Expanding HIV testing in healthcare and community services in England" a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The Department will consider the report's findings in developing the new sexual health policy document.

Up to 2013, it is for primary care trusts to commission and fund interventions to increase the offer and uptake of HIV testing in a variety of health care settings, taking into account the local prevalence of HIV and other health care priorities. The Department is funding the charity the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health to produce information resources to support primary care staff in offering an HIV test.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to collecting and publishing data on emergency readmissions within 28 days of discharge from hospital according to diagnosis code as part of the data collection within the NHS Outcomes Framework. [74080]

Mr Simon Burns: Data on emergency readmissions within 28 days of discharge from hospital are available from the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development compendium, and can be accessed at:

www.nchod.nhs.uk

The compendium includes information on emergency readmissions for a small number of individual procedures.

Since the publication of "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12", we have been working to refine the indicators in the framework as well as finalising the approaches to measuring and reporting of outcome measures.

As part of this work, consideration has been given to refining the definition of the indicator 'emergency readmissions within 28 days of discharge from hospital' but it has not examined the feasibility of disaggregating the indicator by diagnosis code.

Hospitals: Construction

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will allow local authorities to use prudential borrowing to fund the building of new hospitals in cases where the *(a)* interest rate and *(b)* total cost to the public purse can be demonstrated to be lower than the use of a proposed private finance initiative scheme. [73130]

Mr Simon Burns: Local authorities can contribute to the funding of national health service schemes which involve an element of delivering service for which they are responsible and accountable.

Any such scheme is subject to a value for money test as part of the standard business case process, which includes a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the optimal procurement route, i.e. whether to use public capital or the private finance initiative (PFI). The exact form of public capital funding is not assumed or determined as part of the value for money test as the cost of raising the required capital by the Government is the same for all public capital funding options. Different forms of funding, such as loans under Prudential Borrowing Limits or Public Dividend Capital, used by different Government Departments for differing purposes, will mean different cashflow implications for the public authority concerned, such as an NHS trust. However, this will not affect the overall economic cost to the taxpayer, which is the criterion used in such value for money tests.

In the value for money test it is the balance between the additional cost of raising private finance under PFI against the value of risk transferred to the private sector and an adjustment to take account of differential taxation under each option which determines which offers best overall value for money for the taxpayer.

Injuries: Dogs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to the NHS in Yorkshire and the Humber was of treatment in hospitals due to injuries inflicted by dogs in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [73424]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the average cost to the national health service in Yorkshire and the Humber of treatment in hospitals due to injuries inflicted by dogs is not centrally held.

The number of finished admission episodes with a cause code of 'bitten or struck by dog' for the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is held centrally. Data for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following table:

	Finished admission episodes
2009-10	830
2010-11[1]	892

[1] The 2010-11 data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period, ie November from the (month 9) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.

Notes:

1. A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Data for A&E attendances are not available.
3. Cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in HES. The cause code used was W54—'bitten or struck by dog'.
4. In July 2006, the NHS reorganised SHAs and primary care trusts (PCT) in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result, data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years. Data have been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result, some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided.
5. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so are no longer included in admitted patient HES data.
6. In-patients are patients who are admitted to hospital and occupy a bed, including both admissions where an overnight stay is planned and day cases.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Maternity Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure that maternity care is commissioned on a whole-pathway basis. [74887]

Anne Milton: In 2012-13, the Department is introducing tariffs to enable pathway commissioning for maternity care. Initially, this funding system will be on a shadow basis to test its impact and allow the development of commissioning contracts. The expectation is that full implementation will take place from 2013-14.

Midwives

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives there are in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [73454]

Anne Milton: The NHS Information Centre's annual census data are collected by strategic health authority (SHA) region, and not by constituency boundaries. The following table shows the number of midwives working in the NHS in the East Midlands SHA and England.

NHS hospital and community services: Midwives in England, the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area and each specified organisation as at 30 September 2010

	Headcount
England	26,825
of which	
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1,842
of which	
Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust (PCT)	—
Nottingham City PCT	93
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	293
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	—
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	—
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	133

Note:

Figures shown are for staff associated with employers based in Nottinghamshire.

Data quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Multiple Sclerosis: Medical Treatments

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to take steps to improve the UK's international ranking in relation to access to new treatments for multiple sclerosis; and if he will make a statement. [73433]

Mr Simon Burns: A number of treatments for multiple sclerosis are available to national health service patients in England, supported by the multiple sclerosis risk sharing scheme and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance. NICE'S forthcoming review of its clinical guideline on multiple sclerosis will bring together up-to-date advice on the best treatments for patients, as part of the overall package of care.

The use of multiple sclerosis treatments in the rest of the United Kingdom is a matter for the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Naloxone

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of the manufacturer of naloxone used in the N-Alive trials in prisons. [72990]

Paul Burstow: The product Naloxone is a generic drug, therefore the supply could come from several companies, however the N-ALIVE research team are purchasing pre-filled syringes from Cardinal, who produce and sell them via their company Aurum Livery through Martindale Pharma.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Food

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on allowing all hospital trusts in England to decide what consumables they buy; [74098]

(2) whether he has assessed the possibility for greater efficiency savings in the procurement of consumables by NHS acute and foundation trusts in England; [74099]

(3) what consideration he has given to *(a)* intervening, *(b)* directing or *(c)* providing guidance to NHS acute and foundation trusts on reducing the cost of the procurement of consumables. [74100]

Mr Simon Burns: All trusts are aiming to be independent of the Department's direct control by April 2014, i.e. becoming national health service foundation trusts. Accountability for effective procurement will sit primarily with their boards. The Department's strategy on procurement of goods and services (including consumables) is to develop trusts into better informed clients, able to make decisions based on improved and more transparent data and able to make better use of regional and national procurement organisations such as NHS Supply Chain.

To this end, the Department has been working with organisations such as Monitor and the Foundation Trust Network as well and holding workshops to support the NHS in delivering £1.2 billion in savings on procurement of goods and services under the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) workstream. This applies exclusively to NHS providers—NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts.

These savings are to come in four main areas:

reducing price variation (all providers to use best available prices): £598 million;

efficiencies in back office organisation: £65 million;

improved use and management of stock: £283 million; and

clinical efficiencies (release of time for more direct clinical work): £142 million.

To support this, the Department is currently working on the finalising of key performance indicators to be introduced by April 2012 which can successfully measure improvements made by trusts in the management of their non-pay spend. The new strategy based around the work strands of greater transparency on pricing; promoting and improving the national collaborative bodies such as NHS Supply Chain; and product standardisation and rationalisation, which as is mentioned above are currently being consulted on within the NHS, will be formally launched by April 2012.

NHS: Billing

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints his Department received concerning delays in the payment of bills by the NHS from each strategic health authority area in each month of *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [73015]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has received seven letters in 2010 and six letters in 2011 in relation to concerns with delays in the payment of bills.

A search of the Department's correspondence database identified the following items of correspondence. This is a minimum figure which represents correspondence received by the Department's central correspondence team only. The following table shows this figure split by month received and strategic health authority cluster area.

	Strategic health authority cluster area	*Number of cases*
2010		
February	Not specified in correspondence	1
March	Midlands and East	1
June	North of England	1
July	North of England	1
September	Not specified in correspondence	1
October	London	1
November	North of England	1
2011		
February	London	1
June	London	2
July	London	1
August	Not specified in correspondence	1
September	Not specified in correspondence	1

As set out in the Better Payment Practice Code for national health service trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, the Government recognise the importance of paying suppliers promptly and in line with contractual requirements, and this will continue to be the case under our proposals for modernising the NHS.

NHS: Drugs

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* societal, *(b)* carer and *(c)* other components will be considered in his Department's assessment of value under value-based pricing; and if he will make a statement. [73261]

Mr Simon Burns: A response to the Government's consultation for a new value based system of pricing branded medicines was published on 18 July. That document explained that the Government's objective is to use society's valuation of treatments and their impacts to inform the development of the value based pricing (VBP) model. In respect of wider societal benefits this entails considering the full range of potential impacts of treatments beyond their health effects, determining which of these ought to be included in VBP and developing a transparent mechanism for reflecting their value as accurately as possible. As we take forward our work in this area, we intend to collaborate with external experts and stakeholders, to ensure that the VBP system is clear, robust and transparent, and that industry, patients, clinicians and all others who have an interest can understand how valuations are made in the new system.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had on the creation of a legacy scheme for the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation scheme from 1 January 2014. [73262]

Mr Simon Burns: A response to the Government's consultation for a new value based system of pricing branded medicines was published on 18 July. In that document, we set out our intention that value based pricing will apply to new active substances placed on the market from 1 January 2014. However, the vast majority of branded medicines already on the market before 2014 will be considered by the successor arrangements to the current Pharmaceutical Price Regulation scheme. The Department is taking forward this work.

NHS: Expenditure

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on *(a)* pharmaceutical products, *(b)* IT equipment, *(c)* IT services, *(d)* hospital equipment and *(e)* management consultants in each of the last five years. [73507]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is shown in the following table.

£000

	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Pharmaceutical products[1]	10,033,033	9,870,769	9,809,508	9,815,035	9,710,696
IT Equipment[2]	219,415	204,016	261,115	253,230	205,327
IT Services[3]	186,760	190,066	207,703	194,276	203,080
Hospital Equipment[4]	1,864,925	1,934,726	2,061,014	2,016,868	2,024,840
Consultancy[5]	456,759	421,481	310,107	n/a	n/a

[1] Includes primary care prescribing (primary care trusts (PCTs)) and drugs used in secondary care (PCTs and national health service trusts).
Source: NHS audited summarisation schedules (prescribing costs) and NHS financial returns (drugs)

[2] Capital expenditure (purchased additions to non-current assets) under the 'IT' heading (PCTs, strategic health authorities (SHAs) and NHS trusts). The figures do not include revenue expenditure on IT equipment, which is not separately identifiable from the financial data held.
Source: NHS audited summarisation schedules

[3] Revenue expenditure on maintenance and data processing contracts (PCTs, SHAs and NHS trusts).
Source: NHS financial returns

[4] Revenue expenditure on the purchase and maintenance of medical, surgical, x-ray and laboratory equipment. The figures do not include capital expenditure on hospital equipment, which is not separately identifiable from the financial data held.
Source: NHS financial returns

[5] Consultancy services (PCTs, SHAs and NHS trusts). Data for consultancy services expenditure were collected for the first time in 2007-08.
Source: NHS audited summarisation schedules

The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.

NHS: Private Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what areas of NHS provision he expects private sector businesses to operate under his proposals for NHS reform. [73021]

Mr Simon Burns: We expect national health service services to be commissioned from the provider (or providers) best able to meet patients' needs and deliver value for taxpayers' money whether from the public, private or voluntary sector.

A plural system of provision already exists in the NHS, for example within primary care and mental health services. For services where there is competition between providers this must be fair, transparent and non-discriminatory. However, it will remain the responsibility of commissioners to take decisions, in the context of the mandate from the Secretary of State for Health on where services should be competing as a means to improving those services for patients.

NHS: Procurement

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to introduce a system within the proposed new NHS structure to ensure that procurement practices achieve value for money; [74266]

(2) what assessment he has made of the extent to which NHS procurement practices enable the making of efficiency savings. [74267]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has in place clear plans through the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) workstream to support the national health service in making £1.2 billion in savings on procurement of goods and services over the next three years. This applies exclusively to NHS providers—NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts.

These savings are to come in four main areas:

reducing price variation (all providers to use best available prices)—£598 million;

efficiencies in back office organisation—£65 million;

improved use and management of stock —283 million; and

clinical efficiencies (release of time for more direct clinical work)—£142 million.

To support this, the Department is currently working on the finalising of key performance indicators to be introduced by April 2012 which can successfully measure improvements made by trusts in the management of their non-pay spend. The Department has also developed a new procurement strategy based around three key work strands of greater transparency on pricing; promoting and improving the national collaborative bodies such as NHS Supply Chain; and product standardisation and rationalisation. Following completion of consultations on these measures within the NHS, this new procurement strategy will be formally launched by April 2012.

In terms of procuring clinical services for NHS patients, the Health and Social Care Bill would provide for the Secretary of State to impose regulations on commissioners for the purpose of ensuring that they adhere to good procurement practice when commissioning health services for the purposes of the NHS.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with NHS trusts on the sharing of best practice in respect of the adoption of money-saving technologies. [74269]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department actively pursues opportunities to support the national health service to share best practice in general and in particular on the adoption of money-saving technologies including:

collating a national register of local Quality, innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) digital initiatives for the direct purpose of bringing local teams together and sharing collateral;

providing guidance to local teams in using existing frameworks for money-saving technologies (such as online meeting services that provide direct cash-releasing savings); and

supporting other QIPP national workstreams such as QIPP Long-Term Conditions in bringing their local teams together in exploiting money-saving technologies.

In addition, officials within QIPP and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have been in discussions with NHS trusts to identify case studies of best practice in how the NHS is improving quality and productivity while making efficiency savings across the NHS and social care—many of which utilise innovative technology.

These cases studies are available online at:

www.evidence.nhs.uk/qipp

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in UK-based small and medium-sized enterprises that are dependent on NHS procurement or the NHS supply chain. [74973]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

The Department is committed to encouraging the national health service to comply with the transparency requirements that apply to all Government bodies as set out in Cabinet Office guidance. This includes measures such as promoting the use of standardised forms such as pre-purchase questionnaires held on a centralised database, so suppliers can submit information once only; and encouraging NHS Supply Chain, Buying Solutions and other NHS procurement partners to simplify access for small and medium sized enterprises to their contracting activities.

NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of future liabilities for NHS Trusts as a result of maintenance backlogs. [73092]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department collects data on the backlog maintenance of national health service organisations annually. This represents the capital investment required to bring their estate up to an appropriate condition. The total backlog maintenance reported in 2009-10 was £4,096 million. All backlog maintenance collected from the NHS is published at:

www.hefs.ic.nhs.uk

Management of the NHS estate, including decisions on the capital investment made to reduce backlog maintenance, is undertaken locally by NHS organisations. These decisions will reflect the quality of the existing estate, the organisation's future plans for it and the resources they have available.

NICE: Cost Effectiveness

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the University of York on assessment of NICE cost-effectiveness thresholds. [73260]

Mr Simon Burns: The work being led by the University of York is independent research, commissioned in 2008 by the National Institute for Health Research and the Medical Research Council.

Departmental officials have participated as observers at a workshop in which preliminary findings were discussed with a range of stakeholders. Departmental officials are not involved in directing or influencing the work of the academics leading the study.

Obesity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce levels of childhood obesity; [74225]

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to publish a Government strategy for obesity. [74646]

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle childhood obesity. [72973]

Anne Milton: The Government have recently published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England". This sets out how obesity among adults and children will be tackled in the new public health and national health service systems, and the role of key partners. I refer the hon. Members to the written ministerial statement on the call to action issued on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 43-44WS.

A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

Organs: Donors

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve levels of organ donation. [74223]

Anne Milton: An independent Organ Donation Taskforce (ODTF) published its first report "Organs for Transplants" in January 2008 and made 14 recommendations to increase donor rates and make organ donation a usual part of end of life care. Implementation of the ODTF recommendations has seen donor rates rise by around 28%, since 2008. Work continues at local, regional and national levels to further strengthen the donation infrastructure to reach the 50% increase in donors by 2013 anticipated by the ODTF. This includes an increase in the number of highly trained Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation, the appointment of Clinical Leads for Organ Donation, and the establishment of Organ Donation Committees driving improvement locally.

Work also continues to encourage more people to add their name to the Organ Donor Register (ODR). Much of this work is led by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) in liaison with a number of partners in the private, public and third sectors. Examples include asking people to sign up to the ODR when they register with a new general practitioner (GP), when applying for a new passport or European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), and when applying for a Boots advantage card. The prompted choice scheme, working in partnership with the Department for Transport and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, requires people applying for a driving licence online to make a choice about organ donation. NHSBT publicise the need for more people to register as donors through their public awareness campaigns, via the organ donation website and their national helpline. This includes the annual National Transplant week, this year held between 4 and 10 July.

Pancreatic Cancer

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to increase pancreatic cancer survival rates. [75218]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, sets out a range of measures to improve cancer survival rates in England. The Strategy sets out an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy.

To support earlier diagnosis of cancer, the Government have committed over £450 million over the next four years. This money will be used to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer; fund increased general practitioner access to diagnostic tests; and pay for more testing and treatment in secondary care.

The Strategy also sets out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer-focused charities to assess what more can be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care for earlier diagnosis. Departmental officials have already met with a number of these charities, including a pancreatic cancer charity, with the aim of identifying some of the barriers to early diagnosis and to discuss potential solutions. This will inform our future work in this area.

Finally, "Improving Outcomes in Upper Gastro-intestinal Cancers", published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in 2001, makes recommendations on the treatment, management and care of patients with upper gastro-intestinal cancers, including pancreatic cancer. The Cancer Outcomes Strategy makes it clear that the improving outcomes in cancer NICE guidance will continue to be a feature of all commissioned cancer services.

Patients

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plans to take to ensure that the interests of the patient remain the primary priority for doctors. [74075]

Mr Simon Burns: The proposed reforms to national health service commissioning arrangements do not in any way alter the existing duties of general practitioners (GPs) as clinicians to provide high quality primary medical care to meet the needs of patients, as required by their contracts and the terms of their registration as doctors. Under the proposed arrangements for clinical commissioning, GPs will also have an enhanced role in protecting the interests of patients, through their membership of clinical commissioning groups that plan and secure the majority of NHS services. This will ensure that commissioning decisions are made by those with the best understanding of local patients' needs.

Pharmacy: Regulation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the efficacy of the regulatory regime that applies to pharmacy wholesalers; and whether he has any plans to alter that regulatory regime. [74077]

Mr Simon Burns: Registered pharmacies are currently exempt under the Medicines Act 1968 from the need to hold a Wholesale Dealer's licence to wholesale deal licensed medicines. Such dealing should be limited to an inconsiderable part of their pharmacy business. Recent experience of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in investigating cases in which counterfeits have entered the legitimate supply chain suggests that there is a need to strengthen the rules governing trade in medicines not carried out by Wholesale Dealers to limit potential for infiltration of the supply chain by counterfeit medicines. The MHRA has undertaken two public consultations on proposals to address this issue as it relates to pharmacies, and is still considering what measures to introduce.

Speech and Language Disorders: Research

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what longitudinal studies on speech, language and communication his Department undertook in each of the last five years. [73070]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not directly funded any longitudinal studies on speech, language and communication during the last five years. The National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network is currently providing research infrastructure support for a longitudinal study of dyslexia and specific language impairment led by the university of York.

Stem Cells

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of stem cell treatments to human health. [74224]

Anne Milton: The Department keeps developments and advances in stem cell science under constant review in order to assess the potential for improved healthcare treatments.

In 2010, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) carried out a review of current national health service stem cell transplant services for the treatment of Leukaemia and other blood disorders. The review's report, "The Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK" was published in December 2010 and a copy has already been placed in the Library. The report made 20 recommendations to improve stem cell treatment services and £4,000,000 in additional funding has been provided by the Department this financial year to begin implementation.

In July 2011, a joint report with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: "Taking Stock of Regenerative Medicine in the United Kingdom", was published. The report considered the increasingly vital role of regenerative medicine in delivering the next generation of healthcare. As with the report above, a copy has already been placed in the Library.

Suffolk Primary Care Trust: Continuing Care

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on NHS Continuing Care by Suffolk Primary Care Trust since 2001. [73259]

Paul Burstow: Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) spent £5.326 million on continuing health care in 2009-10. The source of these data is the 2009-10 audited summarisation schedules of Suffolk PCT. 2009-10 was the first year in which these data were collected. A figure for 2010-11 is currently unavailable as the audit of the NHS (England) Summarised Account is ongoing.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73984]

Mr Simon Burns: A search of the Department's correspondence database has identified 90 items of correspondence received since 1 June 2010 about funding for charitable or voluntary sector organisations. This is a minimum figure that represents correspondence received by the Department's Central Correspondence Team only. The following table shows this figure split by month received.

Items of correspondence received by the Department's Central Correspondence Team concerning funding for charitable or voluntary sector organisations

Month received	*Number of cases*
2010	
June	5
July	7

Items of correspondence received by the Department's Central Correspondence Team concerning funding for charitable or voluntary sector organisations

Month received	*Number of cases*
August	2
September	5
October	4
November	3
December	7
2011	
January	3
February	11
March	13
April	9
May	4
June	7
July	4
August	3
September	2
October	1

Note:
The 'number of cases' for October 2011 is a month-to-date figure, up to 13 October 2011.
Source:
Central Correspondence Team, Department of Health.

Tranquillisers: Misuse

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take following his Department's recent round table meeting on involuntary tranquilliser addiction. [73506]

Anne Milton: I convened a roundtable meeting of stakeholders on 15 September to discuss the future actions to tackle addiction to medicines. This included consideration of the specific actions required to:

1. Support GPs to respond to the issues of addiction to medicine.
2. Improve access to treatment and support.
3. Improve the commissioning of services to local need.
4. Increase public and professional awareness of addiction to medicines.

The Department will be publishing the list of agreed actions in due course and reconvening the stakeholders group to review progress in four to six months' time.

Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems are being put in place to address drug-resistant tuberculosis in *(a)* England and *(b)* London. [74306]

Anne Milton: The key to addressing drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) is successful completion of treatment. The Department has supported the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in development of national clinical guidance for treatment and control of TB.

In London, national health service commissioners are currently reviewing the configuration of TB services to ensure they operate in the most clinically and cost-effective way. Local arrangements are in place to ensure that people with drug resistant TB are treated by clinical teams with specialist expertise and the current review will determine whether these arrangements need to be strengthened. A common approach to the use of directly observed therapy has already been agreed, which should reduce the number of drug resistant cases in the future.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for commissioning *(a)* immunisation, *(b)* screening, *(c)* treatment and *(d)* other tuberculosis services and programmes across London in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14. [74307]

Anne Milton: In 2012-13, it is proposed that primary care trust clusters will be responsible for commissioning immunisation, screening, treatment and other tuberculosis (TB) services and programmes across London. The details of this arrangement are still being developed.

The details of commissioning arrangements for all TB services in London for beyond 2013 are still being developed.

X-rays

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that all hospitals adopt common standards of performing and recording laboratory and x-ray investigations. [74272]

Mr Simon Burns: The provision of diagnostic services is a regulated activity for which the Care Quality Commission (CQC) sets essential and common registration requirements to ensure basic standards of safety and quality. The Department has also supported a range of measures intended to reduce variation in the way investigations are undertaken and recorded, working with relevant professional organisations such as the Royal College of Pathologists, the Royal College of Radiologists and the Society of Radiographers to identify and implement opportunities for improving standards of professional practice in addition to the codes of practice already in use.

For pathology laboratory investigations, the Department is working with Connecting for Health and the Royal College of Pathologists to develop the first National Laboratory Medicine Catalogue (NLMC). This will enable a standardised form of requesting and reporting pathology results intended to improve patient safety and outcomes by ensuring that all pathology tests use the same terminology and units of measurement. Through minimising local variations in pathology test requesting and reporting, the NLMC will also improve general practitioner and trust ability to commission and provide services across regional boundaries. This will increase options for patient choice.

In addition, the Department has asked NHS Improvement to work with pathology laboratories across England to support the introduction of LEAN methodologies into laboratory practice. These will further assist standardisations in professional practice.

For x-ray investigations in radiology, also known as 'medical exposures', the standardisation of the way tests are undertaken is effected by legislation. The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000 as amended in 2006 and 2011 (IR(ME)R) are intended to protect individuals undergoing medical exposures against the dangers associated with the use of ionising radiation and define a number of obligations. The key requirements of IR(ME)R are that all such procedures carry a net benefit to the individual (i.e. justified); a radiation dose as low as reasonably practicable is used (optimised); and that all personnel directly involved with the medical exposure are adequately trained for the tasks they carry out.

In addition the Royal College of Radiologists, in collaboration with the Society and College of Radiographers, have introduced an Imaging Service Accreditation Scheme. The Department supports and encourages organisations to be accredited against this scheme.

When recording x-ray investigations, standardisation is encouraged through use of technology. The main computer systems used in collecting patient information are Radiology Information Systems and for storing images, the Picture Archiving Communication Systems. These are procured to common specifications developed by the Connecting for Health programme.

Mental Health: Higher Education

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to amending the legislative provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 in respect of mental health policy in higher education institutions. [74084]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

Universities have duties under the Equality Act 2010 (which incorporated the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995) to support disabled staff and students in higher education, including those with mental health conditions.

The law establishes a framework of responsibility which higher educations must comply with and also promotes an anticipatory and proactive approach to supporting disabled students, including those suffering from mental illness. This may mean that there will be different approaches taken by different universities on this issue, as they seek to offer provision that anticipates the needs of their students and staff based on the unique circumstances of the institution. Individual institutions will use the law as a baseline standard to establish their own tailored policies, procedures and approaches. The Government have no plans to amend the provisions in the Equality Act relating to higher education institutions' duties towards disabled students.

There is guidance available to universities on supporting students and staff with mental health conditions from a range of sector and medical bodies, including the Heads of University Counselling Services, the Association of Managers of Student Services in Higher Education (AMOSSHE), the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the former Disability Rights Commission and most recently from the UniversitiesUK/Guild HE Working Group for the Promotion of Mental Well-Being in Higher Education.

Students can use an institution's internal complaints process to raise any concerns about discrimination and pursue their complaint with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) if they have exhausted the internal processes and remain dissatisfied with the outcome. Universities are subject to the courts in the application of these duties. Any student who feels they have been discriminated against can seek legal advice about their situation, and the advice of the Equality and Human Rights Commission which provides guidance on discrimination matters and has a statutory enforcement role (established in the 2006 Equality Act).

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 18 October 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Westminster Clock Tower

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what recent assessment has been made of the structural soundness and stability of the Palace of Westminster clock tower. [74723]

John Thurso: A report by expert advisers concluded in 2009 that the tower was structurally stable. That report can be found at:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2011/october1/big-ben-tilt/

There are regular inspections of the tower, the most recent, of May 2011, confirming that the tower remains in a sound and stable condition.

TREASURY

Business: Credit

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to introduce credit easing for small businesses. [73956]

Mr Hoban: HM Treasury is currently considering a range of options for credit easing as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 3 October 2011. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide more details regarding credit easing at the autumn statement on 29 November.

Coastal Communities Fund

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to make a further announcement on arrangements for the coastal communities fund; and if he will make a statement. [73765]

Danny Alexander: The Government are working with the Big fund and the devolved Administrations to agree how the Coastal Communities fund will be delivered and an announcement will be made in due course.

Coastal Communities Fund: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Welsh Government and *(b)* Big Lottery Fund on the use of the coastal communities fund in Wales. [73764]

Danny Alexander: The Government have announced that the Coastal Communities fund will operate across the United Kingdom, including Wales. The Government will work with the Welsh Government and the Big fund in taking this forward.

Debts: Iceland

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he last met representatives of the Icelandic Government to discuss debts owed to the Government; [75378]

(2) when he last met representatives of the Icelandic Government to discuss debts owed to UK local authorities;. [75379]

(3) when he last met representatives of the Icelandic Government to discuss reform of the financial regulatory system in that country. [75380]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations, overseas governments and ministries as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 126W, on departmental disclosure of information, if he will place in the Library the guidance setting out the timetables and processes for obtaining the necessary approvals or collective agreement ahead of party conferences. [74657]

Danny Alexander: The timetables and processes for approving conference announcements were set out in correspondence to Cabinet. Such correspondence is not routinely made public. The guidance was consistent with longstanding procedures set out in Managing Public Money and Cabinet Committee Guidance. This includes that any proposals with financial implications must be cleared by the Treasury.

Departmental Theft

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what items worth more than £100 were stolen from his Department in 2010-11. [73639]

Miss Chloe Smith: The following items, worth more than £100, were stolen from the Treasury during the 12 months ending December 2010:

	Number
Laptop computers	3
BlackBerry mobile device	1

All the laptop computers involved in these thefts were encrypted devices which are not accessible without a security token and two different passwords. The BlackBerry was also password protected.

No tokens or passwords were left with these items, and accordingly there was no data loss in any of the cases. Steps were also taken to ensure that they provided no means of access to any of the Treasury's IT systems.

Derelict Land: Regeneration

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to providing an additional fiscal incentive for brownfield redevelopment. [73005]

Danny Alexander: The Government have no plans to create an additional fiscal incentive for brownfield development.

The Government are giving responsibility to local authorities and communities to choose which developable land should be used to meet their needs for growth. We expect that local authorities will want a very significant proportion of development to still take place on previously developed land.

Devolution

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Barnett consequentials were paid to the devolved administrations as a result of the decision to freeze council tax in April 2011; and how much will be paid in such consequentials in April 2012. [73868]

Danny Alexander: The 2010 spending review settlement for local government included £0.7 billion to enable English local authorities to freeze their council tax in 2011-12. The devolved Administrations received Barnett consequentials of the change to the local government settlement.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced support for local authorities (LAs) in England who wish to freeze their council tax in 2012-13 at his conference speech. There will be a one off payment to those LAs in 2011-12 who agree to freeze their council tax in 2012-13. The total cost of this is estimated to be £805 million.

Within this the devolved Administrations will receive Barnett consequentials of £67.5 million for Scotland; £38.9 million for Wales and £22.6 million for Northern Ireland.

European Fighter Aircraft

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts in the Ministry of Defence on tranche 3B of Eurofighter. [73792]

Danny Alexander: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has had no specific discussions on tranche 3B with his counterpart in the MOD. Treasury officials discussed the potential size of tranche 3 numerous times with the MOD prior to contract signature in 2009.

Financial Markets: EU Law

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on the City of London of EU regulation of over-the-counter derivative trading. [75061]

Mr Hoban: The Government fully support the efforts to reduce systemic risk in over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives trading through the full implementation of G20 commitments.

As the legislative process in the EU progresses, the Treasury keeps in regular contact with market participants and end users to understand the potential effects of regulation. The Government are committed to ensuring that the OTC market in London is both safe and efficient.

Financial Services

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on recent trends in its use of powers under section 166 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to nominate skilled person assessments of financial services firms. [75443]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials meet senior members of the Financial Services Authority on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of economic and financial issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Financial Services: Regulation

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress he has made on the international implementation of the Basel III agreement. [75267]

Mr Hoban: At the September 2011 Washington summit, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the G-20 reiterated the commitment made by the G-20 leaders at the 2010 Seoul summit to fully implement Basel III along the agreed timelines. In the EU, Basel III will be implemented through legislation on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms, which the Commission adopted proposals for on 20 July 2011.

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on the UK's gold reserves. [74481]

Mr Hoban: In its role as HM Treasury's agent for the Official Reserves, the Bank of England routinely provides advice to HM Treasury on management of the reserves, including gold.

HM Revenue and Customs

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the *(a)* IT and *(b)* other arrangements for HM Revenue and Customs real time service will be operational and fully tested before the proposed start date of the universal credit in 2013. [74631]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is on track to deliver the IT required for the introduction of Real Time Information (RTI). The internet test service for payroll software developers was launched on 26 September 2011, in line with plans.

RTI will be piloted from April 2012 with volunteer payroll software providers and employers. This means that a full year of testing will have taken place before employers and pension providers will be required to start submitting RTI in April 2013. HMRC expects all employers and pension providers to be using RTI by October 2013 in time for the introduction of universal credit.

Housing Revenue Accounts: Hampshire

George Hollingbery: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the amount that would be saved by Portsmouth city council as a result of the lowering of interest rates for the Housing Revenue Account Buy Out if the units in the Wecock Farm area of Meon Valley constituency were financed entirely from the Public Works Loan Board *(a)* annually and *(b)* over a 40-year period; [73407]

(2) if he will estimate the amount that would be saved by Southampton city council as a result of the lowering of interest rates for the Housing Revenue Account Buy Out if the sum required was financed entirely from the Public Works Loan Board *(a)* annually and *(b)* over a 40-year period. [73408]

(3) if he will estimate the amount that would be saved by Fareham borough council as a result of the lowering of interest rates for the Housing Revenue Account Buy Out if the sum required was financed entirely from the Public Works Loan Board *(a)* annually and *(b)* over a 40-year period; [73409]

(4) if he will estimate the amount that would be saved by Winchester city council as a result of the lowering of interest rates for the Housing Revenue Account Buy Out if the sum required was financed entirely from the Public Works Loan Board *(a)* annually and *(b)* over a 40-year period; [73410]

(5) if he will estimate the amount that would be saved by New Forest district council as a result of the lowering of interest rates for the Housing Revenue Account Buy Out if the sum required was financed entirely from the Public Works Loan Board *(a)* annually and *(b)* over a 40-year period. [73411]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are reducing the cost of borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board to finance the self-financing settlement payments related to the reform of council housing finance. The cost of borrowing for this purpose will be reduced by an average of 87 basis points compared to the interest currently charged for other borrowing.

The following table shows the potential savings from this interest rate reduction. It is based on the indicative settlement payments published by the Department in February 2011 and assumes that the whole amount would be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board. Settlement payments are calculated on a whole authority basis, so it is not possible to attribute savings to particular areas within a local authority. These savings would accrue every year of a long-term loan, in nominal cash terms.

£ million

Local authority	*Indicative settlement payment*	*Annual interest saving*	*Cash savings over 40 years (if taken as 40-year loan)*
Portsmouth	81.4	0.7	28.3
Southampton	63.7	0.6	22.2
Fareham	47	0.4	16.4
Winchester	151.6	1.3	52.8
New Forest	139.4	1.2	48.5

Local Government: Pensions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instruct his Department not to play a role in negotiations on changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme. [R] [72089]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury has overall responsibility for public service pension policy and public expenditure.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has responsibility for the rules of the Local Government Pension scheme.

On 20 July the Secretary of State invited discussions between the Local Government Group and local government trade unions with a view to establishing a package of measures to secure short term savings. The Government began consultation on 7 September on consequent proposals. The Government will consult on wider reforms based on recommendations of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, in due course.

Money: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of counterfeit coins in circulation. [74484]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Royal Mint and the Treasury are working with banks, the Post Office, cash handling and sorting businesses, the police and the vending industry to remove counterfeit £1 coins from circulation before they reach the pockets of members of the public. Coin handling businesses, such as banks and the Post Office, handle over 3 billion £1 coins every year. They use high-speed, automated systems to process customer deposits and prepare coins for reissue. These automated systems are capable of detecting and withdrawing a significant number of counterfeit coins. All counterfeit coins detected from coin processing are sent to the Royal Mint for disposal.

The Royal Mint holds briefing to educate the public and the coin handling industry on how to identify counterfeits, and has issued educational leaflets and posters.

The Royal Mint is also working with other validator and coin sorting manufacturers to help improve the counterfeit detection rate.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of counterfeit bank notes seized in each year since 1997. [74490]

Miss Chloe Smith: The face value of counterfeit Bank of England notes removed from circulation since 1997 is set out in the following table:

	£ million
1997	7.5
1998	7.3
1999	3.8
2000	3.9
2001	2.9
2002	6.0
2003	6.6
2004	6.4
2005	10.0
2006	7.8
2007	5.9
2008	13.7
2009	11.2
2010	5.9

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of counterfeit bank notes in circulation. [74491]

Miss Chloe Smith: In 2010, 300,000 counterfeit Bank of England notes with a face value of £5.9 million were taken out of circulation.

Details of the number of counterfeit Bank of England notes taken out of circulation are published on the Bank's website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/about/counterfeits.htm

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce the number of counterfeit bank notes in circulation. [74493]

Miss Chloe Smith: Issuance of banknotes in England and Wales is a key role of the Bank of England. As part of this objective, the bank has an anti-counterfeiting strategy to reduce the number of counterfeit Bank of England notes. The bank's approach to the monitoring and reduction of counterfeits is outlined on its website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/about/counterfeits.htm

National Insurance Contributions: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in *(a)* Durham and *(b)* North West Durham constituency have participated in the national insurance contributions holiday scheme. [74616]

Mr Gauke: Information for applications from Durham is not available as data are not provided on the city or county level.

A breakdown of successful applications for the NICs holiday by constituency will be published in the NICs Holiday Factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

NDFA Fixed Income Plan

James Wharton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has considered providing compensation to holders of the NDFA Fixed Income Plan June 08 following the entry into administration of Lehman Brothers. [75475]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 130W.

Public Expenditure

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will increase departmental capital expenditure limits for the purposes of increasing job creation, economic productivity and potential economic growth. [73428]

Danny Alexander: As a result of the spending review, capital spending will be £2.3bilion higher than planned under the March 2010 budget.

To make sure these plans are fulfilled, I am working closely with cabinet colleagues to ensure that spending is not stockpiled and that capital budgets are delivered on time. This has already released £500 million for the Growing Places initiative.

Public Sector: Pensions

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the revenue from the planned increase in public sector employee pension contributions will be paid directly into the appropriate pension fund. [73091]

Danny Alexander: At the spending review the UK Government announced an increase in member contribution rates for all public service pension schemes, except the armed forces. This is based on the clear rationale set out in the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission's interim report, for making savings by increasing employee contribution rates. This will save a total of £2.8 billion a year from 2014-15, equivalent to an increase in contribution rates of 3.2 percentage points, phased in over three years from April 2012.

In unfunded public service schemes, the largest of which is the NHS Pension scheme, there is no pot from which member and employer contributions are invested. Instead, due benefits are paid from the contributions of current members with any surplus paid for by the Exchequer.

In funded public service schemes, the largest of which is the Local Government Pension scheme, member and employer contributions are paid into a fund. This is invested, and benefits are paid from it when due. For funded schemes, increased member contributions resulting from the spending review measures will be paid directly into the appropriate pension fund.

Taxation: Business

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his position is in respect of the discussions due to take place at the Code of Conduct Group (Business

Taxation) meeting in Brussels on 20 October 2011 relating to *(a)* item 1 on UK-Gibraltar and *(b)* item 2 on Guernsey; and if he will make a statement. [74562]

Mr Gauke: The Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation) will meet on 20 October 2011. The agenda for the meeting includes Gibraltar's Income Tax Act 2010, and developments concerning the reform of Guernsey's corporate tax regime.

Under the terms of the Code of Conduct for Business Taxation, the UK is committed, within its constitutional arrangements, to ensuring that the principles of the code are applied in its dependent and overseas territories, including both Gibraltar and Guernsey.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total tax revenue raised from businesses in the low carbon sector in the last financial year. [74604]

Mr Gauke: When tax receipts are collected by HMRC, businesses are not required to define whether or not they are low carbon. Accordingly, the information requested is not available.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average tax take from a small business in each of its first five years of trading in the latest period for which figures are available. [74606]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

VAT

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Prime Minister, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the rate of value added tax. [74752]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor of the Exchequer takes decisions on fiscal policy, including tax rates, in the Budget. Like his predecessors, the Chancellor informs these decisions through discussions with the Prime Minister and other colleagues.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Dioxide: Feed-in Tariffs

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the range of emission abatement costs in pounds per tonne of carbon dioxide under the feed-in tariff scheme for wind power. [73023]

Gregory Barker: The cost per tonne of CO_2 of wind power supported under the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme is estimated to be around £270 (real discounted 2008 prices).

This estimate is based the FITs model for the 2010 final impact assessment, updated for energy demand and fossil fuel prices in March 2011. These estimates will be updated for the FITs comprehensive review.

Climate Change

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the UK meets its emissions targets under the Climate Change Act 2008. [74761]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Prime Minister pledged to make this the greenest Government ever and announced earlier this year that carbon emissions from Government HQs and offices have been cut by nearly 14% in just one year. Following this, he committed the Government to go further by reducing emissions by 25% by 2015. We are also supporting greater energy efficiency across the economy by introducing the Green Deal, revolutionising the way heat is generated and used through the Renewable Heat Incentive, and rolling-out smart meters and a smart grid to build on this progress. Moreover, on 12 July 2011 the Government published 'Planning our electric future: a White Paper for secure, affordable and low-carbon electricity'. The White Paper sets out key reforms to the electricity market to attract investment, reduce the impact on consumer bills, and create a secure mix of low-carbon electricity sources including renewables, new nuclear and carbon capture and storage.

Emissions projections, published on 13 October 2011, show that the UK is on track, on central forecasts, to meet our first three carbon budgets and our 2020 target to reduce emissions by at least 34% against the 1990 baseline. Emissions have already been reduced by over 26%, taking into account the effects of emissions trading.

We have also set in legislation the level of the fourth carbon budget for the period 2023-27 which equates to more than a 50% reduction in emissions. This autumn, the Government will be publishing a comprehensive strategy which will set out how the fourth carbon budget might be met, pathways to our 2050 target and a set of milestones which will set out shorter-term actions the Government commits to undertake to keep us on track to deliver our ambitious climate change goals.

Combined Heat and Power

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) to the Public Bill Committee on the Energy Bill [Lords] of 21 June 2011, Written Evidence, columns 444-6, what steps he plans to take to progress passive flue gas and micro combined heat and power technologies; and if he will make a statement. [75286]

Gregory Barker: Following the discussion of these technologies at Committee Stage of the Energy Bill, the department has progressed the agenda in line with the commitment given at the end of that debate. My officials met the hon. Member for Southampton Test (Dr Whitehead), shortly afterwards and have also held talks with industry bodies.

In August the Micropower Council organised an event on micro-CHP involving senior DECC officials and the leading players from across the industry, and as a result of that meeting, the industry will shortly be presenting Government with proposals for progressing this technology. Micro-CHP already receives support from the feed-in tariff.

Passive flue gas heat recovery systems are included as an eligible technology under the green deal. The secondary legislation implementing that policy is now being drawn up.

Departmental Contracts

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department has entered into with private suppliers in each year since its inception. [74214]

Gregory Barker: Details of contracts entered into are set out by value and by financial year in the following lists. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was established in October 2008. Information for 2008-09 could be provided only at disproportionate cost from the procurement records of the Departments from which DECC was established (i.e. the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

2009-10

£100,000 to £500,000

Financial support lead for carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration 1

CCS project management support

CCS demonstration project commercial support manager

Provision of technical lead for CCS demonstration 1 competition internal team

CCS demonstration provision of geological advice

£500,000 to £1,000,000

None

£1,000,000 to £5,000,000

Measurement and interpretation of atmospheric gases

Information computer technology

Oil and gas maximising recovery programme—three projects

CCS demonstration 1 project technical support

Financial advice for CCS demonstration 1

Legal advice for CCS demonstration 1 competition

£5,000,000 to £10,000,000

Expert support on CC&S delivery of demos 2-4

£10,000,000 to £50,000,000

Legal support, advice and claims handling in respect of claims for liabilities resulting from the former British Coal Corporation

£50,000,000 to £100,000,000

Provision of front end engineering and design (FEED) studies for demonstration 1 competition (1)

Provision of FEED studies for demonstration 1 competition (2)

Over £100,000,000

None

2010-11

£100,000 to £500,000

Assessment of options to improve GB gas security of supply

Avoiding dangerous climate change (AVOID) programme

Bioenergy grants management

Demand side response (DSR) and smart grid cost/benefit analysis

Electricity market reform—instrument design

Electricity market reform—legal advice

Electronic radar tool to support micro/small wind

Expert support on assessing carbon capture and storage and innovative renewable new entrants reserve (NER) applications

Financial support levels for renewables electricity in the UK

Geological advice for the carbon capture and storage demonstration

Renewables obligation banding review 2010-13—modelling the impact of different support scenarios

Technical support on assessing carbon capture and storage new entrants reserve applications

UK green house gas inventory improvement programme

£500,000 to £1,000,000

UK national contact point service for framework programme 7 and intelligent energy Europe 2 programmes

£1,000,000 to £5,000,000

Smart metering programme

£5,000,000 to £10,000,000

None

£10,000,000 to £50,000,000

None

£50,000,000 to £100,000,000

None

Over £100,000,000

None

2011-12

£100,000 to £500,000

Share point team sites development and implementation

£500,000 to £1,000,000

None

£1,000,000 to £5,000,000

None

£5,000,000 to £10,000,000

None

£10,000,000 to £50,000,000

None

£50,000,000 to £100,000,000

None

Over £100,000,000

None

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73675]

Gregory Barker: Hospitality expenditure incurred by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and attributable to its Ministers was £5,000 in the 12 month period ending September 2011 as summarised in the following table.

Hospitality represents expenditure on food and drink provided at meetings and events for the benefit of guests outside of the Department. All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the Department's policy on hospitality which requires that:

all expenditure must be fully and properly authorised and accounted for;

there must be a clear and justifiable reason for expenditure on hospitality i.e. where there is direct Government interest in promoting the Department);

the nature of the hospitality should not be excessive to the purpose for which it is given;

the number of members of the Department present should be reasonable in relation to the nature of the occasion; and

personal benefit to the participating staff must be incidental and, where relevant, abated by adjustment of any claims for subsistence.

October 2010 - September 2011	*£*
October	358
November	981
December	1,670
January	603
February	93
March	432
April	—
May	—
June	266
July	-90
August	335
September	443
12 months Total	5,091

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75131]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not currently record the size of the companies to whom it has awarded contracts and it would incur disproportionate cost to establish this information. However, out of the 40 contracts advertised, 19 contracts with an estimated value of under £100,000 were suitable for small business to apply for.

Electric Cables: Design

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on the competition to design new electricity pylons; and for what purposes. [74721]

Charles Hendry: The Department has spent £45,000 on the competition to design new electricity pylons. This includes the Royal Institute of British Architects competition management fees, a prize fund of £10,000 (shared between the winners and the shortlist) and design, installations production and management costs around the V&A exhibition, which formed part of this year's London Design Festival. The competition has been highly successful in generating interest and debate within the design industry and the wider public in the visual acceptability of future energy infrastructure:

www.ribapylondesign.com

Green Deal Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish a response to the Green Deal Call for Evidence published on behalf of his Department in March 2011. [74603]

Gregory Barker: Alongside the public consultation on the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation, to be published later this year, DECC will report on how the Green Deal Call for Evidence has fed into policy development. We do not intend to produce a detailed report of all the submissions as this would breach commercial confidences.

Mixed Oxide Fuel: Sellafield

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the building and commissioning costs in current prices of the mixed-oxide fuel plant at Sellafield. [75275]

Charles Hendry: Capital costs of £498 million and commissioning costs of £139.4 million were incurred on the Sellafield MOX Plant over the period from 1994 to 2001 prior to plutonium being introduced into the plant and it becoming fully active. A very high level estimate performed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of the current cost equivalent of these sums is £0.9 billion which has been arrived at by using the retail prices index to escalate costs.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what targets the Mox plant at Sellafield was set for the production of mixed-oxide fuel in each year of its operation; and how many tonnes of Mox were produced in each year. [75276]

Charles Hendry: The original target was for the Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP) to produce 120 tonnes of Heavy Metal (tHM) of mixed oxide fuel a year. This was revised in 2000-01 to 72 tHM per annum. The annual throughput target was later downgraded again, first to 38 tHM to 40 tHM in 2003 and then to 8 tHM to 15 tHM in 2008. The actual production rates of completed assemblies (in tHM) for SMP year by year are as follows:

	tHM
2002-03	0.0
2003-04	0.0
2004-05	0.3
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	2.6
2007-08	0.0
2008-09	1.1
2009-10	4.8
2010-11	2.7

Nuclear Installations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the report by HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, September 2011, paragraph 475, when he expects to receive the final report of the Sellafield Ltd review of cooling, ventilation, inerting and containment systems and the availability and reliability of these systems under accident conditions. [75030]

Charles Hendry: Monitoring of the systems at Sellafield, and the activities of Sellafield Ltd, is carried out by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Sellafield Ltd is committed to produce stress test reports relating to the Calder Hall Reactors and the final report on these will be submitted to the ONR by 31 October 2011; in line with European requirements. A final report covering the other nuclear facilities on the Sellafield site will be submitted to the ONR by the end of December 2011. Together these reports constitute the Sellafield Ltd review, referred to in the chief inspector's report. The chief inspector will keep DECC up to date with progress.

Third Sector: Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73994]

Gregory Barker: The Department received one request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding funding for civil sector organisations in August 2010, one in November 2010, and three in February 2011.

In addition the Department received two non-FOI queries regarding funding for civil sector organisations in December 2010, one in January 2011, and two in February 2011.

The Department has not received any requests under the Freedom of Information Act regarding funding for civil sector organisations since April 2011.

The Department received one non-FOI query regarding funding for civil sector organisations in April 2011, one in June 2011, one in August 2011, one in September 2011 and one so far in October 2011.

Queries regarding grants to civil society organisations under the Low Carbon Communities Challenge and Low Carbon Buildings Programme are excluded as to identify them would incur disproportionate costs.

Wind Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the total net cost of feed-in tariffs for wind power taking into account monetised benefits of these subsidies up to 2030. [73025]

Gregory Barker: The total net resource cost of wind power incentivised through the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) is estimated at around £900 million, cumulative to 2030 (real 2008 prices, discounted).

This estimate is based on the FITs model for the 2010 final impact assessment, updated for energy demand and fossil fuel prices in March 2011. These estimates will be updated for the FITs comprehensive review.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Business Tax Rates

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Executive on the effect on the Northern Ireland economy of business tax rates in the Republic of Ireland. [74553]

Mr Paterson: I have had extensive discussions with colleagues in HM Treasury and the Northern Ireland Executive on options for Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy in relation to the recent Government consultation of that title. These discussions have included consideration of the impact on the economy of differential corporation tax rates in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The Government response to the consultation will be published in due course.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the total cost to the public purse of policing alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and what she estimates such costs will be in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012 and (iii) 2013. [73549]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The policing of antisocial behaviour, including alcohol-related antisocial behaviour, is an operational matter for local police forces. The Government do not collect data centrally on these costs nor have they made projections on future costs.

Alcoholic Drinks: Sales

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of total alcohol sales in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012, *(c)* 2013, *(d)* 2014 and *(e)* 2015. [73550]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The Home Office does not undertake modelling to project future alcohol sales. The Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts alcohol revenues, using a forecast of UK duty paid clearances and projected duty rates. The Budget 2011 receipts forecast can be found here:

http://budgetresponsibitity.independent.gov.uk/pubs/economic_and_fiscal_

The revenue forecasts will be updated in the OBR's Economic and Fiscal Outlook on 29 November, alongside the autumn statement.

Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision will be reached on the inclusion of legislation from the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 into the framework of European Directive 2010/63/EU. [74134]

Lynne Featherstone: European Directive 2010/63/EU must be transposed into UK legislation by 10 November 2012 and must be implemented from 1 January 2013.

The public consultation on options for transposition of the directive closed on 5 September 2011. Decisions on options will be taken after responses have been carefully considered.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of the measures in force under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 will be retained after the introduction into UK legislation of the provisions of European Directive 2010/63/EU. [74135]

Lynne Featherstone: Article 2 to directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes allows member states to retain stricter national provisions in force on 9 November 2010 provided such measures are not used to inhibit the free market by prohibiting or impeding the supply or use of animals from another member state applying the minimum standards set out in the directive, or the placing on the market of products developed with the use of such animals. The public consultation on the transposition of European directive 2010/63/EU which closed on 5 September 2011 invited views on the use of article 2 in transposing the directive into UK legislation. Responses to the consultation will be carefully considered before decisions are taken on how to proceed with regard to this issue.

Asylum

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases had not been resolved on the most recent date for which figures are available. [70531]

Damian Green: The agency completed its review of all cases in the legacy cohort at the end of March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme and the majority (455,000) have been fully concluded.

The UK Border Agency established the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) to actively manage those 23,000 cases which had been reviewed but had barriers to conclusion. All these cases have been decided and communicated to the applicants.

The CAAU has now fully concluded 1,500 of those cases. It has also issued around 3,000 grants which are subject to information from the applicant in order to complete a final security check.

The UK Border Agency is actively managing around 18,000 cases which have been considered to the furthest possible point but barriers to their removal remain.

These barriers include ongoing litigation, impending prosecution, incomplete legal or criminal proceedings, non-compliance or that people are from difficult to remove countries. These cases are being actively considered and will be concluded when those barriers have been lifted.

Note:

All figures rounded to the nearest 500.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of asylum cases received a decision within six months in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* in the period from 1 January to 1 September 2011; [72080]

(2) what the average processing time was between an individual claiming asylum and receiving a decision on their application *(a)* as of 1 September 2011 and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [72081]

Damian Green: The proportion of asylum cases that received an initial decision within six months in 2009 was 82%, in 2010 was 94% and from January—February 2011 was 93%. As of 1 September 2011, information was not yet complete for the March 2011 cohort or beyond, as the six month time period stipulated had not yet elapsed.

The average processing time between an individual claiming asylum and receiving an initial decision on their application over the last five years is as follows:

Year[1]	*Average decision time (Days)*[2]
2007	164.06
2008	190.27
2009	122.83
2010	52.03
2011[3]	36.54

[1] Year based on application date.
[2] All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Excludes legacy cases. Averages based on cases where decisions had already been taken as of 1 September 2011.
[3] Covers the period 1 January 2011 to 1 September 2011.

On 25 August the UK Border Agency published information on the percentage of asylum applications decided and concluded within published standards. This information can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/further-key-data/

These statistics show that in the financial year 2010-11, 59% of decisions were taken within 30 days of application.

Asylum: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy cases of individuals normally resident in the Peterborough City Council area have been granted indefinite leave to remain in each quarter since 5 May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [75185]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has provided the requested information in the following table. We have sourced this information through the utilisation of postcodes from the Peterborough area.

	Period	*Grants of ILR*
2010	May-June	86
	July-September	122
	October-December	104
	Total sum	312
2011	January-March	67
	April-June	20

Period	Grants of ILR
July-September	2
October-December	2
Total sum	91

Source:
Local management information provided by UK Border Agency, North West Region Planning and MI Team. It is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change. Postcodes used to obtain this information were PE1 to PE38.

Debt Collection

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue guidance to police forces and police authorities on the application of the provisions of the Fraud Act 2006 to *(a)* bailiff operations and *(b)* local authority officials who employ private bailiff companies. [73963]

James Brokenshire: I have no plans to issue guidance to police forces and police authorities on the application of the provisions of the Fraud Act 2006 to *(a)* bailiff operations and *(b)* local authority officials who employ private bailiff companies.

Decisions on whether and how to investigate a crime rest solely with the police. Such operational issues are the ultimate responsibility of the chief officer of the force concerned.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74379]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 873-74W.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants in her Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74915]

Damian Green: Information about how many civil servants have been relocated in the past year could be provided only by the detailed analysis of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in her Department. [74916]

Damian Green: In the last financial year, the total amount paid out to staff in the Home Office as London weighting/living allowances was approximately £22 million.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion her Department has entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74203]

Damian Green: Details of contracts entered in to by the Home Department and its executive agencies prior to 2008 are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Details of contracts with private suppliers entered into by the Department including its executive agencies since 2008 will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to her Department's estate; and if she will make a statement. [75148]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office takes cyber-security very seriously. Our IT suppliers are contracted to meet rigorous security requirements and cyber-security is an integral part of every Home Office IT system.

The Home Office operates an appropriate, proportionate and effective regime for cyber-security across its estate and has the necessary skilled resource in place. The Department does not comment on the specific measures it takes relating to cyber-security.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many days on average her Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75018]

Damian Green: The following table includes the average working days lost to sickness absence for each pay grade in the Home Department in the financial year 2010-11. Figures include Home Office headquarters as well as the Department's executive agencies—United Kingdom Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau.

Average working days lost by grade 2010-11

Grade	Average working days lost (days)[1]
AA	9.76
AO	9.60
EO	8.26
HEO	6.51
SEO	4.69
Grade 7	3.68
Grade 6	1.75
SCS	0.90

Average working days lost by grade 2010-11

Grade	Average working days lost (days)[1]
Total	7.83

[1] Figures given are based on paid civil servants only and include current employees and those who left the Home Office during the period, in line with Cabinet Office reporting guidelines. Figures include Home Office headquarters, the United Kingdom Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau.

Note:

Prior to February 2011 responses to requests for information relating to the "Home Department" included information for headquarters staff only—executive agencies were excluded from reported figures. Since February 2011 the Department has streamlined its reporting practices and departmental figures now include both headquarters and all executive agencies. This means that it is not possible to make a direct comparison between information provided in this response and any responses made before February 2011.

Source:

Permanent Secretaries Management Group Cabinet Office return, Quarter 1 2011

Extract date:

1 April 2011 (figures based on period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011).

Detention Centres: Children

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times children detained at immigration centres have been held separately from their parents for *(a)* less than 12 hours, *(b)* between 12 and 24 hours and *(c)* more than 24 hours in the last 12 months. [75093]

Damian Green: We now only hold families with children as a matter of last resort to facilitate their removal from the UK where they refuse to leave voluntarily and then on the advice of the independent Family Returns Panel. Most families are held at Cedar's pre-departure accommodation, but in exceptional circumstances the panel may advise they are held at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre, for example where there are particular safeguarding concerns. Length of stay is restricted to 72 hours, or with a Minister's authority up to one week.

There have been no instances of children having been held separately from their parents at either facility in the last 12 months, nor at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre which we closed to families with children in December 2010.

Forgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged in connection with the counterfeiting of bank notes and coins in each year since 1997; [74488]

(2) how many people have been arrested on suspicion of passport forgery in each year since 1997. [74591]

Damian Green: The information requested on arrests is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and fraud and forgery.

Further breakdowns of offences within these offence groups are not reported to the Home Office.

Immigration

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy cases were awaiting a decision in the latest period for which figures are available. [69442]

Damian Green: The agency completed its review of all cases in the legacy cohort at the end of March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme and the majority (455,000) have been fully concluded.

The UK Border Agency established the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) to actively manage those 23,000 cases which had been reviewed but had barriers to conclusion. All these cases have been decided and communicated to the applicants.

The CAAU has now fully concluded 1,500 of those cases. It has also issued around 3,000 grants which are subject to information from the applicant in order to complete a final security check.

The UK Border Agency is actively managing around 18,000 cases which have been considered to the furthest possible point but barriers to the person's removal remain.

These barriers include ongoing litigation, impending prosecution, incomplete legal or criminal proceedings, non-compliance or that people are from difficult to remove countries. These cases are being actively considered and will be concluded when those barriers have been lifted.

Note:

All figures rounded to the nearest 500.

Immigration Controls

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of progress implementing the plan for creating a border policing command; and if she will make a statement. [73344]

Nick Herbert: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 863W.

Overseas Workers

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from business organisations regarding the immigration cap since 1 June 2011. [70853]

Damian Green: Business organisations were consulted fully on the development of the Government's plans for limits on migration under tiers 1 and 2 of the Points Based System, which were implemented in April 2011, as well as being involved in the more recent consultation on settlement and tier 5. The UK Border Agency maintains an active dialogue with business organisations on issues arising from the implementation of limits on migration and other issues through, for example, its Employer Taskforce, on which business organisations, including the Confederation of British Industry, the British Hospitality Association and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, are represented.

Passports

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on passport processing times of the reduction in size of the interview office network. [74515]

Damian Green: The reduction in the size of the interview office network has meant that capacity is now appropriate to the level of demand. This will have no impact on processing times.

Prescriptions

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1180, on prescriptions, when she expects to lay before the House the statutory instrument relating to the prescribing powers of non-medical prescribers. [73731]

James Brokenshire: This Government are committed to enabling the NHS to deliver services more flexibly and efficiently. The necessary work is currently being finalised for the consideration of the Minister for Crime Prevention and Antisocial Behaviour Reduction, my noble Friend, Lord Henley, with a view to laying the statutory instrument by the end of October 2011. The statutory instrument will incorporate other amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (as amended) to facilitate the non-medical prescribing and mixing of medicines in palliative care and in other areas of clinical practice as they relate to controlled drugs.

Metals: Thefts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on legislation governing the sale of scrap metal; [73144]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the police on metal theft; [73145]

(3) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on metal theft from local authorities. [73146]

James Brokenshire: Home Office Ministers have had a number of discussions with Ministers from other Departments to consider a range of options to tackle metal theft, including whether any legislative changes are needed to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on metal theft from *(a)* individuals, *(b)* businesses, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* the police. [73147]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office regularly receives representations on metal theft from a broad range of interested parties.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of metal thefts from *(a)* individuals, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* local authorities in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [73148]

James Brokenshire: Metal theft is not recorded separately in police recorded crime data and so there is no robust measure for the total number of metal theft offences in the last year. However, initial estimates based on data collected by British Transport Police, local police forces and centrally collected police recorded crime data indicate that there may have been between 80,000 and 100,000 metal theft offences in England and Wales in 2010-11. This estimate cannot be broken down by month or type of victim.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of legislation governing the sale of scrap metal. [73152]

James Brokenshire: The Government are considering a range of options to tackle metal theft, including whether legislative changes are needed to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect on the level of metal theft of prohibiting cash payments for scrap metal. [73153]

James Brokenshire: The Government are considering a range of options to tackle metal theft including whether legislative changes are needed to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964. One option is to prohibit cash payments within the scrap metal industry.

European Directive

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the outcome of the consultation on the transposition into UK law of European Directive 2010/63/EU. [74136]

Lynne Featherstone: We are now analysing the responses to the public consultation on the options for transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes and will publish a summary report by the end of 2011.

Asylum: English Language

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effects of reductions in ESOL funding for asylum seekers on their prospects for employment and integration into society. [72078]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply.

The eligibility for asylum seekers to access funding for skills training is described in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the Skills Funding Agency 2011/12 Learner Eligibility and Contribution Rules (Version 2.1, August 2011). This can be found at:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/LearnerEligibilityandContributionRules_2011_12_12Aug2011__June_revision_V2.1.pdf

From the 2011-12 academic year, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment, full Government funding is provided for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications delivered to unemployed people in receipt of Jobseekers' Allowance or in the Employment and

Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group. Further education colleges and training organisations also have local discretion to provide fully subsidised courses for people on a wider range of benefits where the training is to help them enter employment. Learners are expected to share the costs of publicly funded ESOL courses with Government where full fee remission is not applicable. The Government will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace. This is to ensure publicly-funded training provision is focused on people whose lack of English is preventing them from finding work.

This Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government are working in partnership to develop new forms of support for individuals who need language skills to assist with integration and community cohesion. I will announce further details in due course.

The potential impact on adult learners participating in ESOL courses of the changes to eligibility criteria for fee remission set out in the Government's 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' strategy (November 2010) are described in an equality impact assessment, published by this Department on 18 July 2011. This can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/e/11-1045-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-equality-impact.pdf

WALES

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74391]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office paid 99% of invoices within 10-days of receipt in July 2010; and 100% within 10-days of receipt in August 2010.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects her Department plans in (i) the current and (ii) the next financial year; and what the cost will be of each such project. [74390]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has a plan of proposed work, developed in line with the most recent independent building survey, that aims to bring Gwydyr House, a grade II* listed building, up to a standard that complies with the relevant legislation and health and safety regulations.

Each project is separately evaluated at the appropriate time to ensure value for money. Thus, the plans listed as follows are not yet firmly costed and it is possible that not all will proceed within the timescale envisaged. Current planned projects for the financial years requested are listed in the following tables.

(i) Current financial year

Project	*Rationale*
Replacement of carpet tiles and painting of corridors and two rooms	Safety risk—tiling is old, worn with many displaced and presenting a trip hazard. Painting work to make good damage caused by past re-cabling work
Replace door leading onto staircase	Safety reasons—require door that is fireproofed to a higher standard

(ii) 2012-13 financial year

Project	*Rationale*
Update of lift to become a 'fire lift'	Safety reasons—currently lift cannot be used in an evacuation; upgrade to a fire lift will enable its use in an emergency and increase evacuation routes from the building

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what procedures her Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73112]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has not appointed any external consultants; if we were to appoint any we would follow Cabinet Office guidance.

Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many transport-related fines her Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74393]

Mr David Jones: None.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million and *(c)* over £1 million her Department and its predecessor have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74216]

Mr David Jones: None.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many external training courses staff of her Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74392]

Mr David Jones: In the financial year 2010-11, Wales Office staff attended 12 external courses and weekly Welsh lessons provided by an external provider. A breakdown of courses is listed as follows:

Course	*Cost (£)*
Guide to legislation from Consultation to Act	446.50
Horizon—Senior Civil Servant Development	1,315.00
End of the Line Rail Conference—Cardiff	65.00
Understanding Bills and Legislation	395.00
Intro to Public Accountability for Chief Executives	675.00
Dragon NatSpk Advanced	601.31
Private Office Foundation Workshop	360.00
Overview of Parliamen[illegible]y one place get another free	576.00
Overview of Government	0
Intro Seminar for Audit Committee Members	650.00
Managing Risk	2,240.00
Answering Parliamentary questions	450.00
Welsh Language Lessons for 15 Staff	1,320.00

In addition to the courses listed above, an annual payment of £4,639 was paid to the National School of Government for a core training programme including e-learning sessions.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many letters she has received on funding for civil society organisations within her Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if she will make a statement. [73991]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has no responsibility for funding civil sector organisations.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Departments: Procurement

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what recent progress his Department has made in its efforts to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in competing for Government contracts; [74731]

(2) whether his Department has made recent progress in encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises to compete for Government contracts. [74732]

Mr Hurd: The Government have made progress in encouraging small and medium enterprises to compete for Government contracts. We have published a progress report on 'Making Government business more accessible to SMEs' on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/government-business-smes

The Cabinet Office aims to be an exemplar in terms of the measures put in place for all Departments. We have eliminated the use of pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements under the EU threshold of approximately £100,000; and all new contracts awarded since January 2011 are either on or being prepared to be put on Contracts Finder, the one stop shop that enables suppliers to find procurement opportunities, tender documents and contracts online, free of charge.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on creating common policies and practices for small and medium-sized enterprises involved in government procurement. [74734]

Mr Hurd: The Government are taking forward a series of measures to make it easier for SMEs to compete on a level playing field for Government contracts. These can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/government-opens-contracts-small-business

In particular:

SMEs can register on the Dynamic Marketplace and provide quick quotes for low value Government contracts (below £100,000), enabling them to bid and compete at minimal cost alongside larger suppliers.

We have introduced a shortened, simplified and standard set of core questions to be used when pre-qualification is required; this is mandated to all central Government Departments, and Baroness Eaton, Chair of the Local Government Group, has announced the intention of Local Government to adopt it.

Contracts Finder provides a one stop shop to enable suppliers to find procurement opportunities, tender documents and contracts online, free of charge.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement; [74839]

(2) what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74773]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office is taking forward the Government's commitments to give public sector workers new rights to spin out to form new enterprises and continue to deliver public services, including through new mutuals and cooperatives. These rights will not be uniform across organisations.

The transformation of My Civil Service Pension is currently under way. On 5 July 2011 we created the company and we are currently in the process of identifying a private sector partner for My Civil Service Pension. As this process is under way at the moment it would be inappropriate to make any further statement at this time.

The Mutuals Support Programme is a fund of more than £10 million, administered by the Cabinet Office. It will be dedicated to supporting some of the most promising and innovative mutuals so that they reach the point of investment readiness. This will be supported by the Mutuals Information Service that will give help and guidance to potential and existing mutuals. These will be launched later in the autumn.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the cumulative impact of five-yearly boundary redistributions on individual voter registration in different parts of the country. [75341]

Mr Harper: I am not aware of any evidence that the frequency of constituency redistributions has any impact on the means or outcomes of various systems of electoral registration. However, changes in the register arising from the movement of people over time do increase inequalities in the weight of a vote between constituencies. Holding reviews more frequently will reduce inequalities arising as a result of population movement, and will help ensure votes have more equal weight than at present.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the potential effects of individual voter registration on the number of people registered to vote in each social category. [75464]

Mr Harper: The Government are funding research to understand the current state of the electoral register including any variation by demographic group which will help us to better understand the way in which the move to individual registration will have an impact. Further research will be conducted with currently under-registered groups in order to ensure that as many people as possible are registered to vote, and to assist the transition to Individual Electoral Registration.

The Government will do everything it can to maintain the completeness of the electoral register. This includes phasing in the move to Individual Registration over two years so that people on the register who do not apply under the new system do not lose their vote at the 2015 general election. Every eligible elector will be asked in 2014 to register under the new system: this will include personal invites to people on the register, enquiries to households where no one is registered or people have moved, reminder letters and face to face doorstep canvassers. There will also be a publicity campaign run by the Electoral Commission and we are testing data matching to identify people missing from the register and looking at how we can increase the choices people have over how to register—including greater use of online registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the timetable is for proposed changes to electoral registration in respect of the *(a)* 2015 general election and *(b)* boundary review. [75465]

Mr Harper: The White Paper published on 30 June 2011 outlined the Government plans to implement Individual Electoral Registration.

The first Individual Electoral Registration canvass will take place in 2014, which will include a personal invite to electors on the register to apply under the new system, a household canvass of those properties where no one is registered or where there is evidence that an elector has moved, along with reminders and door-to-door canvassing for those who do not return their forms. Most existing electors on the register who do not register under the new system in 2014 will be carried forward for one year enabling them to vote in the 2015 general election.

After the general election there will be a further annual canvass, which will target any 'carried forward' electors and reminders and doorstep canvassing for those who have not returned their forms. Only after the conclusion of these canvasses will those individuals who have not registered under the new system be removed from the electoral register.

The boundary review which is due to report in October 2018 will be conducted by reference to the electoral register due to be published by 1 December 2015.

Electoral Register: Rhyl

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make an assessment of the improvement in registration rates in the West Ward of Rhyl. [75466]

Mr Harper: There are no plans to carry out such an assessment. However, as part of the move to Individual Electoral Registration, the Government are reviewing existing research data and funding further research into the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register, including the characteristics of those groups most likely to be missing from it in order to ensure that as many people as possible are registered to vote, and to assist the transition to Individual Electoral Registration.

HEALTH

HIV

16. **Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he is taking to tackle HIV nationally. [74863]

Anne Milton: The United Kingdom has a relatively low prevalence of HIV. Men who have sex with men and people from Black African communities remain the groups most at risk of HIV. The Department invests nearly £3 million in national HIV prevention programmes for these groups which complement local HIV prevention by the national health service and others.

IVF

17. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the availability of IVF treatment through the NHS. [74864]

Anne Milton: I am meeting the right hon. Member for Bristol South (Dawn Primarolo) together with the National Infertility Awareness Campaign tomorrow to discuss national health service infertility services.

I have also recently received an update report from Infertility Network UK about their Primary Care Trusts Liaison Project that the Department sponsors, which I am currently considering.

Cancer Genomes

18. **Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department is giving to projects to sequence cancer genomes. [74865]

Mr Lansley: The United Kingdom is among the world leaders in genomics research. The Department and National Institute for Health Research work with Cancer Research UK to fund Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres and support the Cancer Stratified Medicine Programme to improve genetic tests for cancer.

As part of the Cancer Outcomes Strategy, the Department will develop a commissioning and funding structure to enable the efficient delivery of high quality molecular diagnostic testing through centres of excellence.

Health and Wellbeing Boards

19. **Dr Poulter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Health and Wellbeing Boards will be accountable to local communities. [74866]

Paul Burstow: Health and Wellbeing Boards would be accountable to local people through elected councillors. Engagement with local communities would be critical to the boards' work and they would have a duty to involve local people in preparing joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and well-being strategies.

Obesity

20. **Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle obesity. [74867]

23. **Neil Parish:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle obesity. [74870]

Anne Milton: The Government have published 'A call to action on obesity in England'. This sets out how obesity will be tackled in the new public health and national health service systems, and the role of key partners.

The Government are working with key partners to help and support people to make healthier choices.

Pancreatic Cancer

21. **Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the survival rate for pancreatic cancer in the UK compared with other developed nations; and if he will make a statement. [74868]

Paul Burstow: Research shows that if England's pancreatic cancer survival rates matched the best in Europe we would save 75 additional lives each year. Our cancer outcomes strategy sets out a range of actions to improve survival rates for all cancers, including pancreatic cancer.

Mental Health

22. **Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the therapeutic value of acute in-patient beds as a component of NHS mental health care; and if he will make a statement. [74869]

Paul Burstow: Improving acute mental health services is a priority in our mental health strategy. National health service patient and staff groups are working to ensure that in-patients receive high quality, safe care in an appropriate environment with a particular focus on recovery and integrating people back into their everyday lives.

Health Inequalities

24. **Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reduce health inequalities; and if he will make a statement. [74871]

Anne Milton: The Health and Social Care Bill proposes the first ever legal duty on the Secretary of State for Health to have regard to the need to reduce health inequalities, covering national health service and public health functions. We are also addressing the health needs of the most vulnerable people through the Inclusion Health programme.

Abortion: Counselling

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to bring forward draft regulations on abortion counselling; which organisations he plans to consult on such regulations; and if he will make a statement. [R] [72222]

Anne Milton: Details of proposals on independent abortion counselling are currently being developed and will be subject to a wide public consultation.

Carers

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 251W, on carers, what the outcomes were of the Standing Commission on Carers' visit to Cambridgeshire in July; and whether he has considered the merits of establishing a National Carers' Partnership Board to facilitate discussion with and highlight the needs of carers. [74665]

Paul Burstow: The Standing Commission on Carers on its visit to Cambridgeshire noted the good joint working between the council, the local national health service and voluntary organisations, who have developed some highly innovative initiatives that both identify and provide services for carers. The Cambridgeshire Partnership Board is a good example of local partnership working.

We have no plans to establish a National Carers Partnership Board. The Carers Strategy Cross Government Board and the Standing Commission on Carers fulfil these functions. We already have good partnership working across government and with delivery partners to take forward the carers strategy.

Cataracts: Health Services

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been refused cataract treatment since the changes to eligibility criteria. [75489]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not set eligibility criteria for cataract surgery. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning services, taking into account the available evidence and the needs of the local population. PCTs are required to make decisions on the funding of drugs and treatments rationally, and following proper consideration of the evidence. If a PCT decides to prioritise funding for alternative drugs or treatments, it should be able to explain its decision and rationale. We have been clear that this should not lead to any blanket bans on procedures, and local processes should ensure eligibility criteria for procedures can take account of individuals' healthcare circumstances.

Cystic Fibrosis: Health Services

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of NHS efficiency savings on services for people with cystic fibrosis. [75109]

Paul Burstow: The national health service has been asked to make efficiency savings with the purpose of redirecting the money back into meeting the additional demands for frontline care the NHS will face. We are clear that this does not mean reducing quality of care or the outcomes the NHS achieves; but doing things better including working together more closely with social care.

One of the potential areas identified for the NHS to achieve this is for patients with long term conditions. A national workstream has been set up to support them to achieve this, and it is centred on a generic model of care based on key principles of risk-profiling, neighbourhood care teams and self care/shared decision making. Teams based within local health economies participating in this workstream are applying these principles in line with local need.

By embedding these key principles in local health economies across the country this workstream aims to support the NHS to significantly reduce the number of unscheduled admissions and length of stay for people with LTCs. This will represent improved care and generate efficiency savings.

Management Consultants

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on management consultants in each of the last five years. [75491]

Mr Simon Burns: The figures for expenditure on external management consultants for the core Department of Health for the last five financial years are as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	205
2007-08	132
2008-09	102
2009-10	108
2010-11	9.8

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full- and *(b)* part-time staff his Department employed in each year since 1997. [74599]

Mr Simon Burns: The numbers of both full-time and part-time staff employed by the Department in years 1997 to 2010 are published on the Civil Service Statistics website.

These can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110426084705/http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/stats-archive/archived-reports.aspx

The equivalent information at 31 March 2011 can be found at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-229310

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75017]

Mr Simon Burns: The averages of the number of days that the Department's staff, in each pay grade, were absent from work as a result of ill health for the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 are given in the following table.

Grade	*Total working days lost in 2010-11*	*Average working days lost per staff year for 2010-11*
Assistant Officer	1,139	9.8
Executive Officer	3,204	7.3
Higher Executive Officer	1,663	4.5
Senior Executive Officer	2,519	4.9
Grade 7	1,761	3.2
Grade 6	1,226	3.6
Senior Civil Servant	619	2.4
Overall	12,130	4.7

Dystonia: Health Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to provide for the treatment of dystonia using deep brain stimulation; [74577]

(2) what plans his Department has to work with dystonia patient groups to provide internet material that is safe and credible in order to reduce misdiagnosis. [74578]

Paul Burstow: The Department has already made available detailed information, on the NHS Choices and the NHS Evidence websites, covering the diagnosis, symptoms and treatment options for this condition.

Deep brain stimulation is available for the treatment of dystonia. Health professionals are able to refer suitable patients for this treatment who meet the criteria detailed in the guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

General Practitioners: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there were per head of the population in each primary care trust serving *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [74754]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is shown in the following table.

General practitioners (GPs) per head of population by selected organisations as at 2006-10

	GP headcount per 100,000 population				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Medway primary care trust (PCT)	52.9	51.6	53.7	65.2	64.7
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	59.6	60.6	63.2	65.4	65.2

General practitioners (GPs) per head of population by selected organisations as at 2006-10

	GP headcount per 100,000 population				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
West Kent PCT	58.0	57.5	58.3	60.7	60.6

Notes:
1. Data as at 30 September for each year.
2. All GP figures are GPs (excluding retainers and registrars).
3. The PCT relating to the Dartford constituency is West Kent PCT.
4. GP headcount figures are published as 'per 100,000 population'.
5. GPs per head of population have been calculated using ONS resident population estimates as at May 2010, adjusting previqusly published data.
6. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years' data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
7. Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care: General and Personal Medical Services Statistics; Office for National Statistics, 2006-2009 Final Mid-Year Population Estimates (2001 census based), adjusted May 2010 to reflect revisions to migration methodology.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to retain the 48 hour access target for genito-urinary medicine clinics; and if he will make a statement. [72067]

Anne Milton: There is currently no performance measure on access to a genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinic in 2011-12.

An existing commitment to deliver the 48 hour access to a GUM clinic indicator was in place in 2010-11.

There has been no decline in performance in this area in the early months of 2011-12. The latest data for June 2011 show that 99.9% of patients were offered an appointment within 48 hours. We are currently developing a new sexual health policy framework which will recognise the continuing importance of rapid access to GUM services.

Health Professions: Languages

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure staff in the NHS have the necessary language skills to perform their duties. [71986]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health in England has made it clear to all national health service employers that they should ensure that those they appoint have suitable skills and competence for the role, including the ability to communicate, and clear guidance has been provided on this issue. Primary care trusts also have a legal obligation to satisfy themselves that persons admitted to their performers lists have appropriate English language ability to provide primary care services.

Steps have already been taken to strengthen the current system and as of 1 January 2011 all designated bodies must nominate or appoint a responsible officer with duties to check the qualifications and experience of doctors and to ensure that references are obtained and checked.

We are continuing to work with the General Medical Council and we propose a stronger role for responsible officers which will build on their existing duties.

We are also working with other regulatory bodies, to explore what scope there is for strengthening local checks on other health professions.

Hospitals: Data Protection

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of non-disclosure clauses signed by doctors in each *(a)* London and *(b)* other hospital; and what information his Department holds on the reasons for the clause in each case. [74670]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information. Each national health service employer would hold information in relation to the use of non-disclosure clauses for its own employees including doctors.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that NHS hospital trusts abide by his Department's guidance on the use of confidentiality clauses in compromise agreements. [74671]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not routinely monitor the use of confidentiality clauses in compromise agreements. The Department's guidance, contained within the health circular HSC 2004/001, does not prevent the use of confidentiality clauses per se. However, it does state that national health service employers must consider with their legal advisers whether such a clause is necessary in the circumstances of each case and that if such a clause is included within a particular agreement that it complies with their various statutory obligations regarding the treatment of confidential information, including the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

Before an employee considers signing a compromise agreement, which may or may not contain a confidentiality clause, the employer is required to pay for the employee to have independent legal advice on the terms of the agreement.

Hospitals: Food

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the NHS is taking to reduce food waste through flexible portion sizes; and if he will make a statement. [72256]

Mr Simon Burns: Guidance on reducing food waste in the national health service was published by the (then) NHS Estates Agency in 2005.

The guidance, available on the Hospital Caterers Association website at:

www.hospitalcaterers.org/better-hospital-food

provides an audit tool to support local managers in identifying how and why food wastage occurs. It includes a number of specific references to the importance of portion size in ensuring that waste is kept to a minimum.

Influenza: Vaccination

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he plans to take to encourage patients to have an influenza vaccination in 2011; and whether an influenza awareness campaign will take place during the 2011-12 winter. [74620]

Anne Milton: The Department published the Seasonal Flu Plan on 25 May, to assist local national health service organisations in developing robust and flexible operational plans for the 2011-12 flu season.

The chief medical officer (CMO) wrote to the NHS on 14 March seeking assurance that primary care trusts (PCTs) have adequate local plans in place for the flu immunisation programme, have ordered sufficient vaccine and will use robust call and reminder systems to contact their eligible patients, including carers. The letter stated the need for the NHS to plan locally to reach or exceed the 75% uptake for people under 65 in at-risk groups.

The CMO wrote to the NHS again on 25 May outlining arrangements for the 2011 flu vaccination season, specifying the risk groups and the staff groups that should be vaccinated.

Copies of both letters have already been placed in the Library.

Most PCTs run localised activity with their general practitioners (GPs) to ensure that eligible patients are called up for their annual vaccination. The Department supports local activity through information provision and targeted messaging. The Department has produced an information leaflet in PDF format for the public, NHS organisations and GP practices to download for local patient information and will run reminder messages on pharmacy bags to encourage people in at-risk groups to be vaccinated against seasonal flu.

Messages will appear on pharmacy bags across 2,225 pharmacies in England and run for four weeks from 24 October until 20 November. Pharmacy bags will support local campaigns as they target people in at-risk groups in a relevant setting, i.e. when they are collecting their prescription from their pharmacy.

Additionally, the Department is working with relevant partner organisations, such as charities working for people with long-term conditions, to communicate seasonal flu messages via their channels.

Low Birthweight Babies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of maternal stress on the incidence of low birthweight babies. [72021]

Anne Milton: Lifestyle factors, including maternal stress and depression, are known to be significant factors on the incidence of low birthweight.

Early access to antenatal care is pivotal to improving health and well-being outcomes for mother and baby by ensuring the woman receives an assessment of her health and social care needs, risks and choices so that important life style messages can be provided. The Department encourages early access to maternity services and has included the maternity 12-week early access indicator as one of the measures for quality in the 'NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12'.

Lung Diseases: Research

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had on research funding for interstitial lung diseases with *(a)* the British Lung Foundation, *(b)* the Epidemiology and Public Health Department of Nottingham City Hospital and *(c)* the Royal College of Physicians. [71957]

Paul Burstow: The Department has had no discussions specifically on research funding for interstitial lung diseases with the British Lung Foundation (BLF), the Division of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Nottingham (City Hospital Campus), or the Royal College of Physicians. The Department's National Institute for Health Research is currently working with the BLF on building capacity for research into asbestos-related diseases.

Maternity Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the support that women who experience miscarriages receive from the NHS; what measures he will take to improve training for healthcare staff to help them be more supportive; and what plans he has to provide faster access to pre-natal scanning. [74649]

Anne Milton: Miscarriage can be a devastating event for women and their partners and it is important that they receive evidence-based care, in appropriate locations, which supports both their physical health needs and emotional wellbeing.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, "Standards for Gynaecology, and Standards for Maternity (2008)" set out clear standards for the level of care that should be provided to help women and their partners experiencing early pregnancy loss. This includes prompt access to a dedicated early pregnancy assessment unit that provides investigation including scanning, patient counselling and access to appropriate information.

The Department has also commissioned the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce a clinical guideline for the NHS on the assessment and initial management, both physical and emotional, of pain and bleeding in the first trimester of pregnancy. The guideline is due to be published in November 2011.

Meningitis: Health Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to improve the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* aftercare of individuals diagnosed with meningitis; [74579]

(2) what steps he is taking to increase early recognition of meningitis. [74580]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has issued guidance for general practitioners and other clinicians on the diagnosis and management of bacterial meningitis. Guidance is also available from the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, the Health Protection Agency, and other sources commonly used by primary care clinicians such as 'Patient UK'. In addition, there is information on the NHS Choices website and from organisations such as the Meningitis Trust to help parents and carers identify the early signs of meningitis and seek prompt medical attention.

Midwives: Manpower

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives are employed by the NHS; and whether he has plans to increase the number of midwives. [74619]

Anne Milton: There are near record numbers of midwives in the national health service in England—20,654 full-time equivalents in June 2011. A rise of 522 (2.6%) since May 2010.

The Department is committed to training the right number of midwives, based on the most up-to-date evidence. That is why we have asked the Centre for Workforce Intelligence to undertake an in-depth study of the nursing and maternity workforce during 2011-12 in order to inform the future commissioning of training places. This study will help inform our plans for the future.

It is the responsibility of local NHS organisations to plan and deliver a workforce appropriate to the needs of their local population, based on clinical need and sound evidence.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to introduce a national strategy for musculoskeletal diseases; and if he will make a statement. [74626]

Paul Burstow: No decision has yet been taken. We will make a further announcement in due course.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Regulation

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the responsibilities are of the Care Quality Commission and Monitor in respect of the regulation of foundation trusts; and if he will make a statement. [74555]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC), as the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England, has a key responsibility in the overall assurance of essential levels of safety and quality of health and adult social care services. Under legislation, all providers including national health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs), NHS trusts and independent sector providers, must register with the CQC and meet a set of essential requirements of safety and quality. The CQC has a wide range of enforcement powers that it can use if a provider fails to comply.

Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) regulates NHS foundation trusts making sure they are well-run on behalf of patients and taxpayers. NHSFTs must comply with their terms of authorisation which are detailed requirements covering how they must operate, including the requirement to operate effectively, efficiently and economically. Regulation identifies actual and potential financial and governance issues. In cases where a NHSFT has breached or is at risk of breaching its terms of authorisation, Monitor will work with the trust leadership so that problems can be rectified. Where an NHSFT fails to do this, Monitor can exercise its formal powers of intervention.

Both regulators are under a duty to cooperate in undertaking their respective functions, and have agreed a memorandum of understanding to underpin that duty.

NHS: Debts

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce NHS hospital indebtedness. [74858]

Mr Lansley: The national health service is forecasting a healthy surplus for 2011-12. However, the last Government left a legacy of up to six hospital trusts whose private finance initiative payments are a risk to their financial sustainability and up to 24 trusts having such high levels of debt following years of bailouts that they may not meet the tests for their future financial sustainability.

We are working with all of these to identify their individual needs so we can support trusts to achieve consistent standards of quality and financial sustainability; and I will make an announcement later in the year.

NHS: Expenditure

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on *(a)* pharmaceutical products, *(b)* IT equipment, *(c)* IT services, *(d)* hospital equipment and *(e)* management consultants in each of the last five years. [75490]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is shown in the following table.

£000

	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Pharmaceutical products[1]	10,033,033	9,870,769	9,809,508	9,815,035	9,710,696
IT Equipment[2]	219,415	204,016	261,115	253,230	205,327
IT Services[3]	186,760	190,066	207,703	194,276	203,080
Hospital Equipment[4]	1,864,925	1,934,726	2,061,014	2,016,868	2,024,840

£000

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Consultancy[5]	456,759	421,481	310,107	n/a	n/a

[1] Includes primary care prescribing (primary care trusts (PCTs)) and drugs used in secondary care (PCTs and national health service trusts).

[2] Capital expenditure (purchased additions to non-current assets) under the "IT" heading (PCTs, strategic health authorities (SHAs) and NHS trusts). The figures do not include revenue expenditure on IT equipment, which is not separately identifiable from the financial data held. Source—NHS audited summarisation schedules.

[3] Revenue expenditure on maintenance and data processing contracts (PCTs, SHAs and NHS trusts). Source—NHS financial returns.

[4] Revenue expenditure on the purchase and maintenance of medical, surgical, x-ray and laboratory equipment. The figures do not include capital expenditure on hospital equipment, which is not separately identifiable from the financial data held. Source—NHS financial returns.

[5] Consultancy services (PCTs, SHAs and NHS trusts). Data for consultancy services expenditure were collected for the first time in 2007-08. Source—NHS audited summarisation schedules.

The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.

Source:

NHS audited summarisation schedules (prescribing costs) and NHS financial returns (drugs).

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what penalties the NHS has incurred through cancelling or terminating contracts within the Connecting for Health programme since April 2010. [74505]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Connecting for Health is the organisation charged with delivering the National Programme for Information Technology. Since April 2010, no penalties have been incurred. The Department's Informatics Division are ensuring the transition or termination of contracts to meet the future requirements of the NHS.

As we announced in September 2010, by moving IT systems closer to the frontline, it is expected to make additional savings of £700 million.

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the net savings to the public purse arising from the termination of any contracts within the Connecting for Health programme since April 2010. [74506]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Connecting for Health is the organisation charged with delivering the National Programme for IT. Since April 2010, no National Programme for IT contracts have been terminated and therefore no estimate of net savings has been made.

As we announced in September 2010, by moving IT systems closer to the frontline, it is expected to make additional savings of £700 million.

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the net saving to the NHS of the termination of planned but uncontracted future work within the Connecting for Health programme. [74507]

Mr Simon Burns: In September 2011 the Government announced an acceleration of the dismantling of the National Programme for IT, following the conclusions of a review by the Cabinet Office's Major Projects Authority. The Department is undertaking a review of the full portfolio of its informatics applications and services and this study should conclude and report by the end of this year. Decisions on termination and estimations of net savings of planned but uncontracted future work will be informed by this review.

As we announced in September 2010, by moving IT systems closer to the frontline, it is expected to make additional savings of £700 million, on top of the £600 million announced by the previous Administration in December 2009.

NHS: Land

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the extent of the NHS estate that will be transferred to private providers under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill; [74458]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of NHS land and buildings held by primary care trusts; [74526]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with private healthcare providers in respect of the potential use of NHS buildings or land. [74527]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not had recent discussions with any private health care providers in respect of the potential use of national health service buildings or land.

The total net book value of land and buildings held by primary care trusts (PCTs), as at 31March 2011, was £6,634,602,000.

This figure is taken from the NHS (England) Summarised Accounts 2010-11. It excludes the value of assets under construction.

As the Health and Social Care Bill provides that all strategic health authorities (SHAs) and PCTs will be abolished on 1 April 2013, it also permits transfers of property and staff to an appropriate body listed in the Bill. The Bill also enables property transfer schemes to create additional rights or impose liabilities, which could, for example, be used to ensure that any property being transferred is required to be used for the delivery of NHS services.

There are no plans centrally to sell NHS property or related assets to non-NHS organisations.

NHS: Standards

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse arising from the implementation of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programme. [74508]

Mr Simon Burns: The spending review set out the Government's commitment to delivering efficiency improvements in health spending of up to £20 billion over the next four years (from 2011-12 through 2014-15). This commitment still stands.

As set out in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12", at a regional and local level, strategic health authorities have developed integrated plans that address the overall improvements envisaged over the term of the spending review in terms of quality, productivity, management of resources and capacity for building the new system. In addition to actions taken by the national health service regionally and locally, the Department has also taken action to deliver savings from centrally-held budgets and to reduce the costs of administration across the health system, including the Department and its arms length bodies, by one third by 2014-15. In total, national, regional and local plans have identified recurrent potential savings of £18.9 billion by 2014-15.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to protect frontline NHS services following implementation of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programme. [74509]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have protected the national health service in the spending review settlement in England, with cash funding growth of £12.5 billion by 2014-15. By comparison with other Departments, this is a generous settlement, though by NHS historical standards still extremely challenging. Over the next spending period (2011-12 to 2014-15) the NHS will face significant additional demand for services arising from the age and lifestyle of the population as well as the need to fund new technologies and drugs.

In order to meet this challenge, the NHS needs to improve the quality of care it delivers while also making up to £20 billion of recurrent efficiency savings. The NHS has been developing proposals to meet this challenge, widely known as Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP), which include demonstrating how action tailored to local needs and circumstances will ensure quality is maintained or improved while improving productivity.

The delivery of QIPP will help the NHS to maximise resources for frontline services and ensure that where changes to front line services are proposed, those changes will improve or protect the quality of care patients receive.

Nutrition

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process his Department followed in considering the scientific evidence relating to the calorie reduction pledge of the responsibility deal; if he will ensure that the responsibility deal is based on the findings of peer-reviewed scientific literature; and if he will make a statement. [74560]

Mr Simon Burns: The scientific evidence was considered by an independent expert group of nutrition scientists who: (i) examined the evidence on the daily energy imbalance gap; (ii) estimated the level by which calorie intakes would need to fall to reduce the risk of continued excessive weight gain among the population and lead to a degree of weight loss; and (iii) assessed the risk this poses to micronutrient status and malnutrition among different population groups. The group's findings were published on the Department's website in April 2011 and have informed the development of the calorie reduction challenge set out in "Healthy lives, healthy people, a call to action on obesity in England", published on 13 October 2011.

The report of the expert group can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_127553

Palliative Care

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what system is used to record decisions taken in advance about end-of-life care; [74738]

(2) what systems are used in the NHS to record patient preference documents including end-of-life care preferences; [74739]

(3) what evidence his Department has collected on the degree of medical adherence to decisions taken in advance about end-of-life care. [74740]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold information about the use of advance decisions to refuse treatment as set out in the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

There are a number of systems available, including the preferred priorities for care (PPC), which enable patients to record their preferences for care at the end of life and the choices they would like to make, including saying where, if possible, they would want to be when they die.

The Department has recently completed a series of pilots for electronic palliative care coordination systems (locality registers), which have the potential to improve communication, coordination, planning and delivery of end of life care, ensuring that a person's wishes and expressed preferences for care are taken into account. The national health service is beginning to adopt these systems. The core dataset tested by the pilots included information about advance decisions.

Pregnancy

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of unwanted pregnancies which remained unwanted by the mother at the time of birth of the baby in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [R] [74690]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the number of pregnancies being unwanted by the mother and the number of unwanted pregnancies subsequently becoming wanted; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74691]

Anne Milton: No estimate has been made of the number of unwanted pregnancies that remain unwanted at the time of birth and the Department has not commissioned specific research into the number of pregnancies being unwanted by the mother and the number of unwanted pregnancies subsequently being wanted. The Department has funded a review of Induced

Abortion and Mental Health through the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges, which is examining whether mental health problems are more common in women who have an induced abortion, when compared with women who deliver an unwanted pregnancy. The review will be published shortly.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74781]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), announced a right to provide for national health service and social care in March 2011. It enables NHS and social care staff to develop proposals to deliver services through a staff-led enterprise, which includes social enterprises, joint ventures and staff-led mutuals.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74823]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have supported the right to request, which has enabled 45 staff-led social enterprises to be established. This policy has supported approximately 25,000 staff to move out of the national health service into social enterprises with contracts worth roughly £900 million. NHS staff have been assisted by a wide ranging programme of support from the Department.

Responsibility Deals

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has made for the long-term future of responsibility deals. [74647]

Anne Milton: The public health responsibility deal continues to work in partnership with non-government organisations, businesses, professionals, and other organisations to improve public health and tackle health inequalities, recognising their ability to influence what we eat and drink, how active we are and workplace health.

The collective and individual pledges all make a positive contribution to public health. To date, over 300 organisations have signed up as partners to the responsibility deal and we will continue to promote this approach.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital: Princess Royal Hospital Telford

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what weighting is given to submissions made to the consultation on the re-configuration of services between the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford by medical consultants currently associated with both hospitals. [74559]

Mr Simon Burns: The reconfiguration of services is a matter for local decision. Queries about the local process, including weighting of consultation contributions, should be directed to the Shropshire county primary care trust and NHS Telford and Wrekin.

The Government have pledged that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. To this end, we have outlined new, strengthened criteria that we expect decisions on NHS service changes to meet. They must focus on improving patient outcomes, consider patient choice, have support from general practitioner commissioners and be based on sound clinical evidence.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 10, (ii) 11, (iii) 12, (iv) 13, (v) 14, (vi) 15, (vii) 16, (viii) 17, (ix) 18, (x) 19, (xi) 20 and (xii) 21 were diagnosed with each type of sexually-transmitted disease in each health authority area in each year since 1999; [R] [74681]

(2) what the incidence of each sexually-transmitted disease was in *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 10, (ii) 11, (iii) 12, (iv) 13, (v) 14, (vi) 15, (vii) 16, (viii) 17, (ix) 18, (x) 19, (xi) 20 and (xii) 21 in each health authority area in each year since 1999. [R] [74682]

Anne Milton: The data requested, which are only available by single year of age for 2009 and 2010, are shown in the following tables. These data include information provided by the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) and by genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics. These data have been provided at national level only because of the risk of disclosure. For earlier years, only aggregated data by age group are available from GUM clinics. These data are provided at strategic health authority and national level for 1999 to 2008 and have been placed in the Library. As many infections can be asymptomatic the true incidence of sexually transmitted infections is difficult to measure.

Table 1: Sexually transmitted infection (STI) diagnoses reported in patients under 18 years of age in England, 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

		Age (in years)						
Diagnosis	*Gender*	*<13*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*Total*
Chlamydia	Male	8	15	77	378	1,376	3,098	4,952
	Female	16	118	747	2,916	6,976	10,358	21,131
	Total[5]	24	133	824	3,302	8,377	13,486	26,146
Gonorrhoea	Male	0	*	*	*	110	201	339
	Female	*	*	*	*	318	444	926
	Total[5]	*	*	*	143	429	647	1,268

Table 1: Sexually transmitted infection (STI) diagnoses reported in patients under 18 years of age in England, 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

		Age (in years)						
Diagnosis	*Gender*	*<13*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*Total*
Genital herpes	Male	0	0	*	*	44	99	154
	Female	*	7	*	*	402	642	1,262
	Total[5]	*	*	*	172	446	741	1,416
Genital warts	Male	*	*	5	37	203	630	894
	Female	*	*	115	467	1,282	2,458	4,364
	Total[5]	40	21	120	504	1,487	3,091	5,263
Other acute STIs[6]	Male	*	*	32	159	450	1,199	1,852
	Female	*	*	87	310	690	1,191	2,296
	Total[5]	11	19	119	469	1,140	2,393	4,151
Total	Male	31	24	119	607	2,183	5,227	8,191
	Female	48	164	1,031	3,975	9,668	15,093	29,979
	Total[5]	79	188	1,150	4,590	11,879	20,358	38,244

Table 2: STI diagnoses reported in patients under 18 years of age in England, 2010[1, 2, 3, 4]

		Age (in years)						
Diagnosis	*Gender*	*<13*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*Total*
Chlamydia	Male	11	13	78	424	1,471	3,270	5,267
	Female	10	109	782	2,919	6,999	9,895	20,714
	Total[5]	21	122	862	3,352	8,486	13,190	26,033
Gonorrhoea	Male	0	*	*	*	86	187	294
	Female	0	*	*	*	272	389	820
	Total[5]	0	9	35	136	358	577	1,115
Genital herpes	Male	*	0	*	*	36	104	154
	Female	*	*	*	*	391	625	1,227
	Total[5]	*	*	40	177	427	729	1,381
Genital warts	Male	*	*	7	49	176	533	784
	Female	*	*	85	436	1,099	2,075	3,729
	Total[5]	40	13	92	485	1,275	2,611	4,516
Other acute STIs[6]	Male	*	*	26	99	420	982	1,534
	Female	*	*	89	295	670	1,169	2,239
	Total[5]	*	*	115	394	1,090	2,151	3,773
Total	Male	32	20	114	602	2,189	5,076	8,033
	Female	39	145	1,028	3,933	9,431	14,153	28,729
	Total[5]	71	165	1,144	4,544	11,636	19,258	36,818

[1] Sources—National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) and Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Data-set (GUMCAD) returns to the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

[2] Data from infants (age 0) were excluded as these were most probably due to mother to child transmission.

[3] Data with incorrect year of birth and data entry errors may also have been included.

[4] Small cell values between 1 and 4 have been anonymised (with an asterix *) to prevent deductive disclosure. Where the anonymised cell can be deduced from the total it has been necessary to anonymise additional data from the same row/column.

[5] Data total may include 'not known' gender.

[6] Data for 'other acute STIs' include chancroid, lymphogranuloma venerum, molluscum contagiosum[7], non-specific genital infection, pediculus pubis[7], scabies[7], syphilis and trichomoniasis.

[7] Other acute STIs not exclusively transmitted by sexual contact.

Note:

Data on patients aged 15 and over by age groups and gender are available on the HPA website:
www.hpa.org.uk/stiannualdatatables

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the NHS spent on treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases in *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each year since 1999; [R] [74688]

(2) how much was spent by each health authority on treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases in *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each year since 1999. [R] [74689]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect information on national health service expenditure on treating sexually transmitted infections broken down by sex of patients.

However since 2003-04 the Department has collected programme budgeting estimates of primary care trust expenditure on disease categories including genito-urinary system problems and infectious diseases. Since 2006-07 information has also been collected on subcategories of these disease programmes including sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV and AIDS. This information is available at England and strategic health authority level (SHA) in the following tables.

Programme budgeting estimated England level gross expenditure on genito urinary system problems and infectious diseases for 2003-04 to 2009-10 and sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS for 2006-07 to 2009-10

	England level gross expenditure (£ million)						
Programme budgeting subcategory	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Genito urinary system problems	2,809.2	3,097.6	3,507.7	3,755.3	3,646.0	4,003.7	4,630.1
Genito urinary system problems—Sexually transmitted infections	—	—	—	227.2	245.0	279.5	292.5
Infectious diseases	977.4	1.615.5	1,257.7	1,301.2	1,333.2	1,418.0	1,907.4
Infectious diseases—HIV and AIDS	—	—	—	497.5	542.6	654.4	762.9

Programme budgeting estimated strategic health authority expenditure on genito urinary system problems for 2003-04 to 2009-10 and sexually transmitted infections for 2006-07 to 2009-10

	Estimated expenditure on own population (£ million)				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	
Strategic health authority	*Genito urinary system problems*	*Genito urinary system problems*	*Genito urinary system problems*	*Genito urinary system problems*	*Sexually Transmitted Infections*
North East	129.3	159.1	175.1	80.2	12.6
North West	403.8	450.0	488.0	169.2	23.2
Yorkshire and Humber	272.5	299.6	326.6	119.5	25.9
East Midlands	210.1	253.3	282.0	106.2	15.0
West Midlands	279.4	322.2	372.8	126.2	18.4
East of England	257.7	293.2	305.6	116.5	26.3
London	514.4	556.8	593.9	162.6	45.8
South East Coast	222.9	243.3	261.1	117.7	12.9
South Central	187.5	222.5	241.0	102.7	18.9
South West	242.6	267.5	267.4	103.1	16.1

	Estimated expenditure on own population (£ million)					
	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
Strategic health authority	*Genito urinary system problems*	*Sexually Transmitted Infections*	*Genito urinary system problems*	*Sexually transmitted infections*	*Genito urinary system problems*	*Sexually transmitted infections*
North East	68.2	6.9	76.0	11.0	95.0	12.5
North West	193.6	32.3	201.6	32.7	229.1	40.2
Yorkshire and Humber	126.1	15.5	140.2	28.0	166.0	27.1
East Midlands	101.5	12.4	113.3	19.6	126.1	24.2
West Midlands	141.7	22.1	156.3	30.3	164.6	28.6
East of England	107.3	28.2	128.4	37.2	150.7	29.3
London	175.2	63.2	205.9	70.6	263.1	66.6
South East Coast	113.6	17.1	121.2	12.2	150.3	23.8
South Central	98.6	23.9	94.7	15.2	96.7	16.6
South West	120.6	17.0	129.7	21.2	149.4	19.5

Programme budgeting estimated strategic health authority expenditure on infectious diseases for 2003-04 to 2009-10 and HIV and AIDS for 2006-07 to 2009-10

	Estimated expenditure on own population (£ million)				
	2003-04.	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	
Strategic health authority	*Infectious diseases*	*Infectious diseases*	*Infectious diseases*	*Infectious diseases*	*HIV and AIDS*
North East	40.8	46.7	52.4	53.4	7.8
North West	107.6	122.2	135.1	133.2	31.1
Yorkshire and Humber	82.7	85.4	102.7	83.9	14.7
East Midlands	54.9	65.7	73.5	59.3	10.9
West Midlands	69.8	76.3	89.2	78.3	22.0
East of England	69.3	81.9	91.0	96.2	23.3
London	285.7	316.1	408.2	348.6	216.6
South East Coast	63.2	71.0	74.4	77.9	26.4
South Central	47.3	55.3	59.2	52.8	10.2
South West	61.5	73.5	75.2	70.1	9.9

	Estimated expenditure on own population (£ million)					
	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
Strategic health authority	*Infectious diseases*	*HIV and AIDS*	*Infectious diseases*	*HIV and AIDS*	*Infectious diseases*	*HIV and AIDS*
North East	47.2	10.2	53.7	14.2	59.6	16.2
North West	134.5	36.7	152.3	47.5	179.6	52.3
Yorkshire and Humber	91.1	16.2	93.9	20.6	108.5	30.2
East Midlands	66.8	13.4	72.3	20.0	88.5	23.7
West Midlands	83.8	23.5	87.6	26.5	103.3	32.9
East of England	86.6	17.9	84.2	23.9	127.9	43.1
London	386.6	249.6	414.8	289.9	459.9	321.4
South East Coast	86.7	35.1	104.2	51.2	106.3	48.5
South Central	64.4	16.1	57.7	14.6	68.1	19.9
South West	71.9	14.5	80.8	22.2	95.0	26.4

Notes:

1. Estimated England level expenditure figures are calculated using PCT and SHA programme budgeting returns and Department of Health resource account data. Figures will include an estimate of special health authority expenditure.

2. SHA level expenditure is calculated using the combined expenditure on own population figures of each PCT within the SHA area. It does not include expenditure by the SHA.

3. In order to improve data quality, continual refinements have been made to the programme budgeting data calculation methodology since the first collection in 2003-04. The underlying data which support programme budgeting data are also subject to yearly changes. Caution is therefore advised when using programme budgeting data to draw conclusions on changes in spending patterns between years.

4. From 2003-04 to 2005-06, expenditure on sexually transmitted infections was included within the Genito Urinary system problems category and was therefore not separately identified. Expenditure on HIV and AIDS is not included in expenditure on sexually transmitted infections but has been separately identified as a subcategory of Infectious diseases since 2006-07.

5. Disease specific expenditure do not include expenditure on prevention, or health promotion and programmes such as the National Chlamydia Screening Programme or general practitioner expenditure, but do include prescribing expenditure.

6. Figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.

Smoking

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from operators of cigarette vending machines on the implementation of the ban on such machines from 1 October 2011. [74638]

Anne Milton: We have received a number of items of correspondence from tobacco vending machine operators since July when litigation challenging the vending machine legislation was concluded. On 28 July 2011 the Supreme Court refused the application to appeal by Sinclair Collis (a vending machine operator wholly owned by Imperial Tobacco), following decisions in the High Court and Appeal Court finding the legislation to be lawful.

Since July, the Department's officials have also worked in liaison with the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators on the implementation of the legislation, including the development of guidance for those with cigarette vending machines on their premises.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much direct funding his Department has allocated to each civil society organisation in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74824]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on all Department of Health funding to civil society organisations is not available in the format requested from central records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It is possible to provide partial information using local records for the Department's main grant funding schemes for the third sector. Tables have been placed in the Library which show awards from the funding years 2010-11 and 2011-12 with the identifiable data available including:

Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund;

Strategic Partner Programme;

Financial Assistance Funding (funding provided for one year only);

Opportunities for Volunteering;

The Volunteering Fund; and

Children's Hospices.

Tuberculosis: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis have been diagnosed in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London since 2010. [71969]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not currently available. The Health Protection Agency is due to publish, in November 2011, data on the number of cases of tuberculosis diagnosed in England during 2010.

Wi-Fi: Health Hazards

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the health of *(a)* humans and *(b)* animals of multiple wi-fi networks which are operational 24 hours a day in flats or houses in multiple occupation; and if he will make a statement. [74720]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advises the Government in relation to the protection of communities from radiation hazards, including those associated with exposure to non-ionising radiation such as the radio waves from wireless communication systems. The HPA has concluded that there is no consistent evidence to date that exposure to radio signals from wi-fi and wireless local area networks adversely affects the health of the general population. The signals are very low power, typically 0.1 watt (100 milliwatts) in both the computer and the router (access point), and the results so far show exposures are well within the internationally-accepted guidelines from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection. The HPA also considers it sensible, as with any new technology, to adopt a precautionary approach, and keeps the situation under review.

The HPA's independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation (AGNIR) reviewed health effects in relation to radio waves in 2003 for the then National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB). See documents of the NRPB, volume 14, number 2, which is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/NPRBArchive/DocumentsOfTheNRPB/Absd1402/

AGNIR is currently updating this review and is due to publish its findings, in 2012. In between the publication of formal review reports, the HPA monitors emerging scientific studies and keeps its advice under review.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs advises that it is unaware of any specific assessment on wi-fi networks and animal health.

JUSTICE

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74985]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: For the latest period for which figures are available (September 2011), the average cost to the Ministry of Justice for payment of an invoice was £2.81.

In that period 79.05% of invoices were settled electronically and 20.95% were settled by cheque.

Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74385]

Mr Djanogly: It is not the Ministry of Justice's policy to settle any transport-related fines on the behalf of its staff.

There is no evidence held centrally to indicate since 2007 that the Ministry of Justice or its predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, settled any transport-related fines on behalf of its staff. To provide absolute confirmation of this would incur disproportionate cost.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75020]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In 2010-11 the average working days lost by civil service grade are set out in the following table:

Civil service grade	*Average working days lost (AWDL)*
AA	11.2
AO	10.0
EO	8.0
HEO	6.2
SEO	5.5
G7	3.8
G6	3.2
SCS	1.8
Overall	9.2

Note:
The AWDL data include the Ministry of Justice HQ (excluding agencies), National Offender Management Services, HM Courts and Tribunal Services, Office of Public Guardian, The National Archives, Land Registry, Wales Office and Scotland Office.

Reducing sickness absence continues to be a key priority for managers across the Ministry and its agencies. Locally owned targets are in place for all business areas. These are supported by action plans with activities designed to tackle sickness absence through early intervention, continuing effective management of each case and encouraging staff to return to work as soon as they are able.

Drugs: Convictions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 839W, on drugs: convictions (1) in respect of how many offences of *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply and possession with intent to supply a drug in each category of classification the perpetrator was not brought to court but given a police caution in each of the last three years; [74104]

(2) how many cautions were given in relation to all categories of offence in each year for which figures were given; [74107]

(3) how many of the other sentences handed out for all three categories on drugs offences involved fines; and what the average fine imposed was in respect of each category of offence; [74288]

(4) what the average length of prison sentence was for each category of drug-related offence in each year since 2007; [74289]

(5) how many of those given maximum sentences for each of the categories of drugs offence between 2007 and 2010 received such sentences in *(a)* the Crown Court and *(b)* a magistrates court; and what the name was of each court in which such sentences were handed down; [74290]

(6) what the categories of other sentences represented in the table in the answer are; and how many of each category of offence were disposed of through each other sentence. [74291]

Mr Blunt: I will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested as soon as possible.

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Dartford constituency have been convicted of offences related to *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply of illegal drugs of each classification level in each year since 2007; and how many such people received (i) a custodial sentence and (ii) the maximum sentence in each case. [74756]

Mr Blunt: I will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested as soon as possible.

Legal Representation: Police Stations

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Resolution of the House of 14 September 2011, on Access to a Lawyer, what his policy is on the right of access to a lawyer at a police station. [74957]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I issued a written ministerial statement on 11 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 23-24WS, setting out the Government's position. The Government believe that access to a lawyer is an essential right of accused persons at appropriate stages of any process of criminal investigation. However, the Government have not opted in to the European Union Directive on Access to a Lawyer in Criminal Proceedings and on the Right to Communicate upon Arrest at the initial stage of the negotiations on the directive because we are of the view that the directive as published by the Commission is not proportionate and could have an adverse effect on our ability to investigate and prosecute offences effectively. The Government intend to work together with other member states to improve the directive and if the concerns we have are taken into account during the process of negotiation, we will consider applying to opt in once the instrument has been adopted.

Magistrates' Courts: Barry

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many letters he has received regarding the closure of Barry magistrates court. [75082]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has received seven Ministers' cases and 'Treat Official' correspondence regarding the closure of Barry magistrates court since the decision was announced on 14 December 2010.

Peterborough Prison: Drugs

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the Building Skills for Recovery substance misuse programme at HMP Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [75221]

Mr Blunt: Building Skills for Recovery (BSR) is a psychosocial programme based upon a cognitive behavioural model of treatment and the programme's aim is to reduce offending behaviour through the exploration of substance use and the acquisition of a skill set to prevent future relapse into former patterns and behaviours. It has been developed with guidance from a international body of experts in the field; the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel.

Building Skills for Recovery has been piloted since January 2011 in both custody and community, with HMP Peterborough being one of the custody pilot sites delivering the programme to both male and female offenders. The pilot has now been evaluated and findings show that the programme has been received positively by both delivery teams and service users with many offenders reporting how much they had gained through completing the programme.

The Building Skills for Recovery programme will be presented to the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAP) for formal accreditation on 26 October 2011.

Prison Sentences: Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases his Department has paid compensation to *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* offenders who are not in prison, following complaints about their sentence on human rights grounds in each of the last five years; and what the total monetary value was of such compensation. [74745]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not distinguish between compensation payments to former prisoners and serving prisoners. Therefore a full answer to the question could be obtained by interrogating hundreds of individual cases files and only at disproportionate costs.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have challenged their prison sentence on human rights grounds in each of the last five years. [74744]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the number of appeals received against sentences, dealt with in the Crown court and the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal. However, central administrative databases for courts do not store information on the number of prisoners who have challenged their sentence on human rights grounds in each of the last five years.

While such appeals will be logged onto the administrative computer systems used in the Crown court and the Court of Appeal, they cannot be distinguished from other types of appeals. As such, the information requested can be obtained only through the manual inspection of individual case files held by the courts at disproportionate cost.

Statistics are published on the number of appeals received and dealt with against sentences in England and Wales, from 2006 to 2010, in the Ministry of Justice's statistical bulletin 'Judicial and Court Statistics', the most recent edition of which was published on 30 June 2011. The number of appeals against sentences dealt with in the Crown court can be found in table 4.10 and those dealt with in the Court of Appeal in table 7.6. The report is available on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-annual.htm

Prisoners: Indonesia

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Indonesian nationals are currently held in UK prisons. [75424]

Mr Blunt: As at the end of June 2011, the most recent available data, there were no Indonesian nationals in prison in England and Wales.

Information on the foreign national prison population in England and Wales is published quarterly in the 'Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin' available on the Ministry of Justice website via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly.htm

in table 1.5.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate his Department has made of the average cost of a prisoner place bought by the National Offender Management Service from each privately-run prison in the latest period for which figures are available; [73802]

(2) what budget his Department allocated to each prison for financial years *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* 2013-14. [73869]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the latest cost per place and per prisoner available for financial year 2009-10. Figures for 2010-11 are not yet finalised.

The direct cost reflects mainly the direct contract costs for each private prison. The overall cost also includes some costs met centrally by NOMS. This includes some estimation.

The capital repayment element of the contractors' charge is not included in the cost per place/prisoner as it is not part of the annual resource operating cost.

Doncaster and Wolds are privately-managed prisons, while the remainder are run under private finance initiative contract arrangements.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the baseline certified normal accommodation number of places.

2009-10

£

	Direct resource expenditure		*Overall expenditure*	
	Cost per place	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Altcourse	58,486	35,883	61,926	37,993
Ashfield	56,858	81,292	57,273	81,885
Bronzefield	51,817	54,865	56,126	59,428
Doncaster	30,475	21,018	43,937	30,302
Dovegate	34,844	32,995	37,039	35,074
Forest Bank	36,051	26,300	40,173	29,307
Lowdham Grange	31,114	29,215	34,191	32,105
Parc	54,169	38,660	56,974	40,662
Peterborough	37,253	32,937	41,462	36,658
Rye Hill	30,775	28,284	33,632	30,910
Wolds	29,195	24,197	40,737	33,765
Total	40,840	33,354	45,409	37,086

Budgets

The following table shows the direct resource outturn expenditure for each public sector prison for financial year 2010-11 and will shortly be published as an addendum to NOMS annual accounts for period 2010-11; individual budget allocations for 2011-12 are not routinely published and do not provide a useful source of data for meaningful comparisons as these are subject to change throughout the year to reflect operational business decisions.

2010-11 direct resource expenditure

	£ million
Garth	20.1
Gartree	17.1
Grendon (HMP Grendon and Springhill)	14.2
Kingston	6.1
Acklington	19.0
Ashwell	8.1
Blundeston	12.5
Buckley Hall	9.8
Bullwood Hall	6.5
Bure	11.2
Canterbury	7.3
Channings Wood	15.9
Coldingley	14.1
Dartmoor	14.3
Edmunds Hill	9.1
Erlestoke	10.7
Everthorpe	12.2
Featherstone	14.5
Guys Marsh	11.6
Haverigg	13.7
Highpoint	17.7
HMP Kennet	10.9
Lancaster Castle	7.2
Lindholme (includes Immigration Removal Centre)	19.5
Littlehey	22.4
Maidstone	11.4
Moorland	20.4
Mount (The)	16.3
Onley	15.9
Ranby	20.9
Risley	20.8
Shepton Mallet	5.8
Stafford	14.6
Stocken	15.5
Usk	7.6
Verne (The)	11.3
Wayland	18.0

2010-11 direct resource expenditure

	£ million
Wealstun	17.0
Wellingborough	11.9
Whatton	17.2
Wymott	23.2
Frankland	39.6
Full Sutton	28.6
Long Lartin	29.1
Wakefield	29.2
Whitemoor	30.4
Downview	9.9
Foston Hall	9.0
Send	8.5
Eastwood Park	11.4
Holloway	18.9
Low Newton	11.5
New Hall	14.5
Styal	14.1
Askham Grange	3.1
East Sutton Park	2.7
Aylesbury	12.6
Brinsford	15.5
Castington	13.4
Deerbolt	14.2
Feltham	31.9
Glen Parva	17.6
Hindley	18.6
Isis	12.3
Lancaster Farms	15.4
Northallerton	5.5
Portland	14.9
Reading	8.2
Rochester	16.6
Stoke Heath	17.1
Swinfen Hall	14.6
Cookham Wood	9.5
Huntercombe	12.9
Warren Hill	10.1
Werrington	7.1
Wetherby	15.8
Bedford	11.6
Belmarsh	39.7
Birmingham	30.0
Bristol	15.5
Brixton	21.4
Bullingdon	21.1
Cardiff	16.1
Chelmsford	17.5
Dorchester	7.3
Durham	22.2
Exeter	13.0
Gloucester	8.9
Highdown	22.1
Holme House	24.6
Hull	20.5
Leeds	23.5
Leicester	8.9
Lewes	15.6
Lincoln	14.5
Liverpool	26.3
Manchester	36.0
Norwich	16.0
Nottingham	22.2
Pentonville	29.2
Preston	18.5
Shrewsbury	8.5
Swansea	9.3
Wandsworth	33.5
Winchester	14.6
Woodhill	32.9
Wormwood Scrubs	27.1
Ford	7.8
Hollesley Bay	6.9
Kirkham	12.9
Leyhill	10.6
North Sea Camp	6.1
Sudbury	8.1
Thorn Cross	8.5
Blantyre House	3.0
Drake Hall	8.1
Kirklevington Grange	5.6
Latchmere House	4.4
Morton Hall	7.9
Brockhill/Hewell Grange/Blakenhurst	28.3
Sheppey Clustered Services	51.9
Isle of Wight	39.5
Total	1,955.8

Notes:

1. Figures subject to rounding.
2. In order to improve comparability, rental costs (such as land or premises) are not included in the figures for Dartmoor, Lancaster Castle, Huntercombe and Shrewsbury.
3. Figures do not include private/contracted out prisons.
4. Data for Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside prisons included under Isle of Sheppey cluster.
5. Data for Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange prisons included as one cluster.
6. Data for Albany, Camp Hill and Parkhurst prisons included under Isle of Wight cluster.
7. Dover and Haslar are excluded (Immigration Removal Centres).

Establishment funding settlements 2012-13 and 2013-14

Budget allocations for financial years 2012-13 and 2013-14 are not yet allocated.

Prisons: Private Sector

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason staff in the contracted out prison estate are not able to participate in national control and restraint teams; and if he will make a statement. [75219]

Mr Blunt: There are no restrictions on the participation of staff from contracted-out prisons in national control and restraint teams. The contracted-out prisons are trained by public sector staff and are deployed alongside Her Majesty's Prison Service staff.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress he has made in reducing delays in the transfer of assets between the prison public and contracted-out estate; and if he will make a statement. [75220]

Mr Blunt: HMP Birmingham is the only prison which was required to transfer to the contracted out estate following a recent competition. The transfer occurred on 1 October 2011 to schedule and with no delays.

Squatting: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to help protect property owners from squatters. [74235]

Mr Blunt: We have been consulting publicly on options for dealing with squatting, including the possibility of criminalisation. The consultation exercise ended on 5 October 2011. We will consider the consultation responses carefully before deciding which option to pursue.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Brighton

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Brighton Pavilion constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency from 11 October 2010 to date. [74929]

John Penrose: The impact of the Department's policies on the Brighton, Pavilion constituency—including those delivered by our arm's length bodies—from 11 October 2010 to date, include:

> Digital switchover is due to take place in the Brighton, Pavilion constituency in February 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5% of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.
>
> The Arts Council has supported projects in Brighton, Pavilion with a total of £2,541,634.
>
> Heritage Lottery Fund has provided grants of £183,200 to the constituency.
>
> 174 National Lottery grants totalling £4,728,057 were awarded to the Brighton and Hove area in 2010 and 125 grants with a total value of £5,563,838 have been awarded in 2011. Full details of the grants awarded for this year, including a breakdown of the amount and recipient project, can be found on the Department's website, using the link:
>
> http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk/SearchResults.aspx?Year=2011&LA=Brighton%20and%20Hove

The Department has implemented a number of new policies which are impacting upon, and will continue to affect the Brighton Pavilion constituency. These include:

> The establishment and launch of the school games in September 2011, which will give every child the opportunity to take part and compete in sport, and create a legacy from London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.
>
> The launch of the local TV action plan, with the goal for 10 to 20 local TV services to be in operation by 2015.
>
> Supporting English local authorities and the devolved Administrations in rolling out broadband in remote areas, with the target of delivering the best superfast broadband in Europe by 2015.
>
> The publication of a long-term strategy for tourism to create a legacy from London 2012 and the Queen's diamond jubilee, with the aim of attracting an extra four million overseas visitors over the next four years, bringing in an extra £2 billion of spending and creating thousands of jobs.

The Brighton, Pavilion constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency, such as:

> Over £4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.
>
> Between 2005-06 and 2010-11, the proportion of people visiting a museum, gallery or archive in the last year increased (from 42.3% to 47.5%). There was a record 43.8 million visitors to museums in 2010-11—with many museums recording their highest visitor figures ever.

Broadband: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of households in each income decile in Scotland which have access to broadband internet. [73258]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not record information on households with broadband by income decile. Where appropriate the Department for Culture, Media and Sport refers to data in Ofcom's Communications Market reports and other publicly available data.

Page 29 figure 4.2 of Ofcom's latest Communications Market report: Scotland, published in August 2011, includes data on broadband take up in Scotland by social group and household income.

> http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/cmr/cmr11/CMR_2011_Scotland.pdf

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75122]

John Penrose: This Department has awarded four contracts directly to third sector organisations, since May 2010. The value of a contract awarded in July 2010 was £464.65, and in April 2011, three contracts totalling £114,131.66 were awarded.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75123]

John Penrose: The number of contracts this Department has awarded to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and large businesses since May 2010, with their value, are in the following table:

Date	*SME contracts*	*Value (£)*	*Large company contracts*	*Value (£)*
May 2010	4	8,507.65	1	1,753.30
June 2010	4	22,223.80	0	0
July 2010	4	6,068.87	2	2,863
August 2010	2	3,142	2	23,400
September 2010	3	4,050	1	2,000

Date	*SME contracts*	*Value (£)*	*Large company contracts*	*Value (£)*
October 2010	3	11,700	1	3,090
November 2010	3	13,340	1	3,524.22
December 2010	1	6,484.30	0	0
January 2011	14	225,504.26	3	9,095.60
February 2011	23	124,520.82	4	17,797.78
March 2011	22	85,526.71	8	161,431
April 2011	16	907,159.07	3	59,305.23
May 2011	9	64,698.03	5	148,566
June 2011	15	318,648	5.	7,077.92
July 2011	13	28,601.90	3	5,353,937
August 2011	17	8,856.24	3	24,349
September 2011	10	72,136.91	1	24,022.47
Total	163	1,911,168.56	43	5,842,212.52

The Department does not separate SMEs.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75124]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has a yearly IT security compliance review that includes an independent penetration test against its firewalls and associated policies. Assurance obtained through conducting such tests is used as evidence to demonstrate compliance when renewing the Government secure internet (GSI) code of connection. This is a yearly requirement that incorporates new measures regarding cyber security detailed in the Government's Communication Electronics Security Group (CESG) Good Practice Guides which must be satisfied in order for the Department to conduct business up to and including Impact Level 3 (Restricted). DCMS currently has full accreditation certified by CESG. In addition to the yearly audit, the Department receives regular threat assessments from the technical authority GovCertUK that are addressed immediately by Atos, the Department's IT service provider.

Film Industry

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much money his Department allocated to support the British film industry through *(a)* the National Lottery, *(b)* grant-in-aid to the UK Film Council, British Film Institute, the National Film and Television School, *(c)* national and regional development schemes, *(d)* BBC and Channel 4 Films and *(e)* EU funding for each year from 2008 to 2013; and how much of the allocated funding was spent in each year from 2008 to 2011. [73934]

Mr Vaizey: Grant in Aid (GIA) and Lottery allocation (before Olympic reduction) and spend for film through the UK Film Council (UKFC) and British Film Institute (BFI) as of 1 April 2011 are as follows:

					£ million
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Income					
Lottery income	32,038	34,248	36,968	39,941	46,049
GIA allocation	30,064	37,034	45,563	31,218	23,152
Expenditure					
Lottery spend	40,315	41,323	38,541	—	—
GIA spend	30,131	39,342	45,307	—	—
The National Film and Television School (GIA)	2,978	3,059	3,038	[1]1,452	—

[1] Year to date.

The Department does not direct the BBC to spend any specific sum on films. Within the framework of its Charter and Agreement and the licence fee settlement, it is for the BBC to decide how to allocate its funding in the fulfilment of its objectives.

The Department does not provide any funding to Channel 4, which is commercially funded. Funding for regional programmes is allocated through the UK Film Council/BFI, Regional Development Agencies and European funds and not directly by the Department.

The Department does not allocate EU funding for film.

Details of funding through the MEDIA programme and other EU funding for film as well as details of national and regional funding and funding allocated by the BBC and Film4 can be seen in the BFI Statistical Yearbook:

http://statisticalyearbook11.ry.com/?id=83050

Local Broadcasting: Radio

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons community radio organisations in Liverpool are excluded from making applications for community radio licences in 2012-13. [75343]

Mr Vaizey: Community radio organisations in Liverpool are not excluded from applying for community radio licences in 2012-13. Applications for licences from the north-west will be invited in the first half of 2013. While there are some areas of the north-west where Ofcom will be unable to invite applications for FM licences, due to a lack of available frequencies, Ofcom will consider at the time applications are invited, whether capacity on medium wave might be available.

Mobile Phones

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential economic value to the UK of the deployment of long-term evolution mobile technology. [75480]

Mr Vaizey: Any assessment of the economic value of LTE services to the UK would normally fall to Ofcom to produce. The Department has not made any such assessment.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Attorney-General what procedures the Law Officers' Departments use when engaging external consultants. [73094]

The Attorney-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) adheres to Cabinet Office guidance which requires consultancy contracts of £20,000 and above to receive appropriate departmental approval, and Cabinet Office and HM Treasury approval where:

Contracts are expected to last longer than nine months

Pre-existing contracts are extended to take the total life of the contract beyond nine months, or:

In the case of procurement-related consultancy, the cost is over £20,000.

Internally, all funding applications are submitted to the finance director for preliminary checks to ensure that the requirement is of operational necessity; it cannot be met by in-house resources; and the commercial proposal represents value for money with a demonstrable return on investment and does not exceed advice on prices and rates provided by the Efficiency Reform Group. Subject to these criteria being met a request for approval is put to TSol's Performance & Investment Committee.

In the event that the use of consultants is approved, the procurement will be undertaken using, preferably, an existing framework arrangement or through an open competition advertised on the approved Contracts Finder site. TSol is also mindful that, should tendered prices exceed approved rate card maxima, it may be necessary to re-submit the business case for appropriate approvals.

If the Department were to require consultancy services above the threshold of £20,000, the Department would formally reconsider the need for the services every three months and, should the need appear likely to continue beyond a nine month period, seek Cabinet Office approval to prolong the contract.

In parallel with its formal procedures, TSol seeks to secure value for money and knowledge transfer from consultants as part of its ongoing management of resources.

The Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate are covered by the same arrangements used by TSol.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) follows the same central Government procurement guidelines for engaging external consultants as with any other procurement process. Guidance is provided to SFO staff.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) defines consultancy services in line with the Office of Government Commerce's Consultancy Value programme.

In May 2010, the CPS adopted a new approval process for all consultancy engagements. The process involves the preparation of a business case which contains as a minimum: a description of the requirement; the anticipated length of engagement; and confirmation that the required skills are not available in-house.

All business cases are referred to the finance director and chief executive officer (CEO) for approval. Those expected to exceed £20,000 in value are referred for ministerial level approval. Any extensions to approved engagements must follow the same process.

Contracts for approved engagements are let via collaborative government framework agreements for consultancy services. Only in exceptional circumstances, where the required skills are not available via such agreements, would consideration be given to contracting with a firm or individual outside of a collaborative government framework agreement.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Attorney-General how many consultants were employed in each of the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last three years; and from which companies. [74583]

The Attorney-General: Details on the consulting firms used by the Law Officers' Departments during the last three financial years are contained in the following tables. Where data are available the number of consultants engaged from each firm has been provided.

Serious Fraud Office

	Number
2008-09	
Corven	4
Deloitte	1
Involve	12
PA Consulting	15
Penna	2
Veredus	2
Luther Pendragon	1
2009-10	
Corven	9
Involve	12
PA Consulting	9
Penna	2
SCC	2

Serious Fraud Office

	Number
Waterman	1
2010-11	
Avanquest	1
COA Solutions	1
Corven	3
DTZ	2
Eventworks	12
Governetz	3
Hill and Knowlton	1
PA Consulting	11
Penna	2
Ravyn Systems	1
SCC	2

Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol)[1, 2]

	Number
2008-09	—
Capgemini	—
Deloitte	—
KPMG	—
Tribal Consulting	—
Methods Consulting	—
2009-10	
PA Consulting Group	—
Jacobs Babtie	—
Hyder Consulting	—
2010-11	
Knight Frank	—

[1] The TSol data also cover the Attorney General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

[2] TSol do not retain information on the number of individual consultants employed.

Crown Prosecution Service[1]

	Number
2008-09	
Alpine Consortium en	1
AMQIS Consortium	1
AMTEC	1
Badenoch and Clark	4
Certes Computing Ltd	1
DBI Consulting	1
ELAN Computers	1
Evolve Business Consultancy	3
GovGap (COI)	2
HedraPlc	1
King's College School of Law	1
Logica	1
Methods Consulting	1
Monarch Recruitment	1
Mouchel	2
NESCO	1
NescoIT	1
Networkers MSB	3
Parity Resources	1
QI Consulting	2
Sand Resources Ltd	1
Selex Communications	1
Tribal/Avail	2
Tribal Consortium	1

Crown Prosecution Service[1]

	Number
2009-10	
Avail Consulting	1
Capgemini	1
DBI Consulting	1
Elan Computing	1
GovGap	2
Legal Inc	1
Methods Consulting	1
Mouchel	1
NES IT	2
NetworkersMSB	1
PA Consulting	3
Sand Resources	1
Selex Communications	1
Tribal Consortium	1
Tribal Avail	2
2010-11	
Badenoch and Clark	1
Outsource	1
Tribal Consortium	1

[1] The table includes consultants who were appointed via employment agencies and other third parties, as well as those supplied via consultancy firms. Excluded are freelance consultants who were appointed directly and engagements with consultancy firms where a named individual was not appointed to work on the assignment. The CPS is a devolved organisation and it is possible that consultancy engagements between April 2008 and March 2011 have been entered into locally and not included in central records. To verify the details of any such engagements would incur disproportionate cost.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Attorney-General how much expenditure each of the Law Officers' Departments incurred on consultancy in each of the last three years. [74584]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Consultancy expenditure 2008-09 to 2010-11

£

Department	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Crown Prosecution Service	1,559,911	1,881,834	687,315
Treasury Solicitor's Department[1]	257,000	53,000	9,000
Serious Fraud Office	2,513,000	2,199,000	1,583,000

[1] The TSol data also cover the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [74993]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Department	*Recorded expenditure on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines 2010-11 (£)*
Crown Prosecution Service	131,809
Serious Fraud Office	42,563

Department	Recorded expenditure on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines 2010-11 (£)
Treasury Solicitor's Department[1]	[2]6,435

[1] The TSol data also cover the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

[2] Expenditure on periodicals and trade magazines is not recorded separately from that on law reports (which would not be classed as magazines). It is not possible to separately identify subscriptions to periodicals and trade profession magazines without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Attorney-General for how many days on average staff of the Law Officers' Departments in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75007]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Average working days lost per year through ill health

Grade	Treasury Solicitor's Department[1]	Crown Prosecution Service	Serious Fraud Office
AA	6.7	10.5	n/a
AO	16.3	11.2	19.35
EO	11.1	9.4	14.62
HEO	4.6	7.5	15.44
SEO	4.6	7.3	7.1
G7	4.1	7.9	5.8
G6	3.6	3.9	3.2
SCS	1.0	1.1	1.0

[1] The TSol data also cover the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

DEFENCE

Defence Business Services

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to appoint a new partner for Defence Business Services. [73180]

Mr Robathan: The competitive dialogue process is expected to conclude by Christmas at which point we will make a decision whether or not to award the contract to a commercial partner or retain the current in-house management. This decision will be taken on value for money grounds.

AlixPartners

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the Cabinet Office's Efficiency and Reform Group in connection with the appointment of AlixPartners. [73329]

Peter Luff: Discussions took place on a number of different occasions between the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Cabinet Office's Efficiency and Reform Group on the MOD's need for external support to deliver the Department's strategic defence and security review renegotiation programme in connection with the appointment of AlixPartners.

Armed Forces: Charities

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of trends in the number of charities supporting the armed forces since 2003. [74028]

Mr Robathan: We are very grateful for the vital role played by the voluntary sector in support of the armed forces community. COBSEO, the Confederation of Service Charities, plays an important role in co-ordinating the work of charities in this sector.

However, charities are independent bodies which the Ministry of Defence has no remit to oversee and therefore we hold no data on the number of new charities being created to support the armed forces community.

Armed Forces: Females

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of armed forces personnel were women in each *(a)* service and *(b)* rank in the latest period for which figures are available. [73178]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is given in the following table:

Percentage

1 April 2011	All services	Naval service	Army	RAF
Total	9.6	9.4	8.0	13.8
Officers	12.3	9.7	11.3	15.7
OF-9	0	0	0	0
OF-8	0	0	0	0
OF-7	0	0	0	0
OF-6	1.7	0	0.6	5.5
OF-5	3.4	1.0	3.6	5.2
OF-4	5.8	3.0	6.2	7.7
OF-3	11.8	8.7	11.4	15.3
OF-2	15.2	13.7	13.6	18.2
OF-1/OF-(D)	14.7	12.1	13.1	19.2
Other ranks	9.0	9.3	7.4	13.2
OR-9	4.5	3.9	5.9	2.9
OR-8	4.7	0.5	5.4	0
OR-7	6.0	4.9	7.0	5.3
OR-6	9.8	7.6	9.1	12.5
OR-4	11.9	11.7	9.7	16.0
OR-3	7.5	0.2	7.8	0
OR-1/OR-2	9.1	11.1	6.3	14.6

Armed Forces: Finance

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial support is available for armed forces personnel returning to civilian life who began serving before 2005 but who have fewer than 20 years service. [74609]

Mr Robathan: There is a resettlement training grant of £534 that is available to service leavers who have served six or more years to assist them in paying for resettlement training. The grant is also available to all service personnel who are medically discharged, regardless of their length of service. Resettlement support for the majority of service leavers is provided by the Career Transition Partnership (CTP).

Further support is available to eligible personnel, through various training courses (which are free from tuition fees); career transition workshops; employment and future career advice; assistance with CV writing and job preparation; vocational training; and a job-search/recruitment facility.

Furthermore, dependent on their pension scheme, rank and length of service, those who leave the armed forces and have no immediate terminal benefit may be eligible for a resettlement grant.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcome of his Department's basing review on the Defence Medical Services in Scotland. [73367]

Mr Robathan: It is too early to say at this time what the future of the Defence Medical Services in Scotland may be. A full assessment of the potential effects will be undertaken once the current basing review work is completed.

Armed Forces: Housing

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on rent for private sector accommodation for use by armed forces personnel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [73318]

Mr Robathan: Substitute Service Family Accommodation (SSFA) and Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) properties may be rented to accommodate service families and single serving personnel respectively when no suitable Ministry of Defence accommodation is available to entitlement at or close to the duty station. Substitute accommodation is only used as a last resort and often more than one service person may occupy an SSSA property.

The amount spent on SSFA and SSSA per financial year is shown in the following tables:

SSFA properties

Financial year	*Number of SSFA properties (as at 31 March)*	*Cost (£ million)*
2006-07	1,279	18
2007-08	1,190	18
2008-09	1,391	20
2009-10	1,524	22
2010-11	1,668	23

SSSA properties

Financial year	*Number of SSSA properties (as at 31 March)*	*Cost (£ million)*
2006-07	4,095	40.5
2007-08	4,479	44.5
2008-09	4,806	50.9
2009-10	4,803	55.9
2010-11	4,454	53.0

These figures do not include properties rented from Annington Homes Ltd, bulk hire or those subject to private finance initiative arrangements.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* length of contract and *(b)* other terms are of the private finance initiative with Bannockburn Homes Ltd in respect of service family accommodation for Redford and Dreghorn Barracks. [73351]

Mr Robathan: The private finance initiative (PFI) with Bannockburn Homes Ltd for service family accommodation (SFA) in central Scotland is for a period of 20 years, which expires on 30 June 2019.

The terms of the PFI relate to the provision of 165 SFA homes across central Scotland, of which 103 are in the Edinburgh area.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason there will be a three-year pause in the upgrade of service family accommodation properties from 2013. [73534]

Mr Robathan: There will be a pause in the upgrade programme while the Ministry of Defence (MOD) works to reduce its funding gap, and to balance defence priorities and the budget whilst protecting front-line operations.

The MOD will continue to fund routine and response maintenance on accommodation, together with minor new works, including special needs adaptations; carpet replacement; and improvements delivered through the asset replacement programme, during the three year upgrade pause.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department received in income from charging armed forces personnel for use of accommodation rented from the private sector in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [73317]

Mr Robathan: The requested information is not held in the format requested.

Occupancy charges for service accommodation are the same whether it is rented from the private sector or owned by the Department. The level of charges is set by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body and charges are deducted from salary at source.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcome of the basing review on levels of continuing educational allowance claimed in Scotland. [73356]

Mr Robathan: In the longer term, concentration on fewer bases and the likelihood that many personnel will have more settled careers allowing greater stability of home life should reduce the requirement for Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA). CEA remains available to all service personnel who meet the eligibility criteria.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have applied to be considered for redundancy since May 2010; and what assessment he has made of the effect of redundancy notices issued to service personnel on active duty. [73637]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* There have been some 2,300 applications from members of the armed forces to be considered for compulsory redundancy in tranche one, of which 1,770 were accepted.

Service personnel in receipt of the operational allowance were exempt from redundancy unless they were volunteers. Those applicants who volunteered and were selected for redundancy while serving on operations are receiving the same level of support and advice as any others.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will allow families of members of the armed forces facing redundancy to remain in their current location until the decisions on such redundancies have been made. [74000]

Mr Robathan: We have recently notified those service personnel selected for redundancy in tranche one, and where possible we will allow their families to remain in their current locations until the discharge date.

Details regarding the redundancy fields for future tranches are currently being considered by individual service manning authorities. Until a service man or woman has been selected for redundancy he or she remains deployable both in the United Kingdom and overseas. If the assignment is for accompanied service, entitlement to service families accommodation is limited to the new duty station.

Armed Forces: Scotland

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements he plans to put in place to ensure that military personnel in all parts of Scotland have access to similar facilities to those provided by the *(a)* Army Education Centre, *(b)* Army Learning Centre and *(c)* Edinburgh HIVE following the closure of Redford and Dreghorn Barracks. [74518]

Mr Robathan: The announcement made by the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, set out our strategic long-term direction on the structure of the Army and its basing requirements across the United Kingdom. Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of these changes within the Army and to consider the infrastructure and services necessary to support those units and personnel who will be based in Scotland.

Until this work is complete and further detail is known about the size and type of units that will be required to support the future Army lay down in Scotland, it is too soon to confirm how this will affect individual units or indeed to confirm where they will reside in the future. This will in turn affect the provision of services to service personnel and their families. Therefore, no decisions have currently been made on the future provision of Army Education Centre, Army Learning Centre or the Edinburgh HIVE facilities.

Armed Forces: Training

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for personnel using the Maritime Composite Training System to conduct live training with service personnel from foreign nations using the Joint Multinational Interoperability Assurance Network. [74130]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Navy plans to commence Maritime Composite Training System inter-operability trials with two of its NATO partners in April 2012.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces under the age of 18 years saw active service in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [72819]

Mr Robathan: In accordance with the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (the Optional Protocol), Ministry of Defence policy is not to deploy personnel aged under 18 on operations.

The United Kingdom ratified the Optional Protocol on 24 June 2003 and remains firmly committed to it. Every feasible step is taken, in accordance with our obligations, to prevent the involvement in hostilities of service personnel under the age of 18.

We have protective measures, including single-service administrative guidelines and procedures and a system for tracking personnel, to reduce as far as possible the risk of unintentional deployments. We have also revised and re-issued the "Policy on the Care of Service Personnel under the Age of 18". Our processes are, however, not infallible and the pressures on units prior to deployment have meant that there have been a small number of instances where service personnel have been inadvertently deployed to an operational theatre before their 18th birthday.

There were four members of the armed forces who were under the age of 18 years and deployed to operational theatres between April 2008 and March 2010. As a result of tighter controls in units and at RAF Brize Norton no service personnel under the age of 18 years has deployed since January 2010.

It is important to note that more than 60,000 service personnel have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 1 April 2008. On the rare occasions when service personnel under the age of 18 years deploy in error, it is our policy to remove them from an operational theatre as soon as possible.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Piranha 10x10 armoured vehicles his Department has acquired under urgent operational requirements; from which countries such vehicles were required; and what their operational role was. [75247]

Peter Luff: None.

BAE Systems

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in his Department's expenditure on the level of its contracts with BAE Systems; and if he will make a statement. [73167]

Peter Luff: As part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) implementation process, we have engaged with BAE Systems on a programme of commercial negotiations for contracts impacted directly by SDSR decisions. These negotiations continue, and cover all aspects of the Department's future requirements with the company and the company's capabilities. I am withholding the details of these discussions as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Civil Society Department: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73979]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held in a format that would allow for the identification of the number of letters about funding for the civil sector without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the maintenance backlog on his Department's estate in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the time required to complete such maintenance. [74260]

Mr Robathan: Although no formal estimate exists in respect of backlog maintenance for the Ministry of Defence estate as a whole, based on information available for the estate based in Great Britain it is estimated that the cost of bringing the estate up to a consistent, desired standard is likely to be in excess of £1 billion.

Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2007; and at what cost. [74325]

Mr Robathan: Individual staff are personally liable for payment of any financial penalties for driving offences incurred while on official duty.

Departmental Manpower

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian employees, including civil servants, his Department has employed on average in each year since 2005. [74158]

Mr Robathan: The first table shows the average strength of the Ministry of Defence civilian work force by financial year from 2004-05 to 2010-11. The average figure for financial year 2011-12 is not yet available. Therefore the second table shows strength in April and July 2011.

Financial year	*Full-time equivalent (FTE)*
2004-05[1]	108,750
2005-06[1]	106,760
2006-07[1]	101,000
2007-08[1]	94,100
2008-09[1]	87,950
2009-10[1]	86,230
2010-11[1]	84,460

	Full-time equivalent (FTE)
April 2011[2, 3]	83,060
July 2011[2]	81,150

[1] Average strength based on a weighted 13 month average, summing half of first and last month, plus all of remaining 11 months and dividing by 12.

[2] Totals include core top-level budget staff, trading fund personnel, Royal Fleet Auxiliary staff, and locally engaged civilians.

[3] Denotes estimate—April 2011 locally engaged civilian figures are 'estimates' due to non-availability of data.

Notes:

1. All numbers rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. All numbers are listed in full-time equivalent terms.

Source:

DASA (Quad-Service)

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73840]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s policy changed in April 2011 to recognise that use of pre-qualification questionnaires is generally unnecessary for low risk procurement valued below £100,000. For small and medium-sized enterprises in particular, this has provided easier access to Government contracts. Nevertheless, there will still be a small number of exceptional cases where the specific risks make pre-qualification questionnaires necessary, for instance where there is a need to ensure a minimum capability to protect highly classified information.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74324]

Mr Robathan: Expenditure on external training for civilian staff was £23.490 million in financial year 2010-11.

External training suppliers are used to delivering specialist and functional training required to enable personnel to fulfil their professional role, where such training cannot be delivered internally or through common arrangements with other Departments. Such areas include medical, legal, engineering and technical.

The number and cost of individual training courses undertaken is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Depleted Uranium

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the provision of funding for research and development on the potential health implications for the general population arising from the use of depleted uranium. [74967]

Nick Harvey: There is already an extensive body of both Government and independent scientific research on the potential health and environmental risks of using depleted uranium in munitions. The Ministry of Defence has no plans to commission any further work in this area beyond maintaining a watching brief on related worldwide research activities.

European Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 84W, on European Fighter Aircraft, what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of transferring the Typhoon force from RAF Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth by 2014. [74970]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* Detailed plans for the implementation of this transfer are still being developed and consequently the information is not available.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 84W, on European Fighter Aircraft, whether his Department obtained a pre-sale valuation of the high value estate located in Edinburgh. [74971]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence does not routinely assess the current market value of all its estate because the estimated receipts will depend on market conditions and other factors at the time of sale. Where pre-sale valuations have been obtained, these are regarded as commercially confidential and are thus not released ahead of the sale in case they influence the market.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the flying time is of Typhoon aircraft stationed at RAF Leuchars to each of the training ranges currently used; and what estimate he has made of the flying time of Typhoon aircraft to training ranges when that aircraft is stationed at RAF Lossiemouth. [75207]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The table provides the distance and flying time from RAF Leuchars and RAF Lossiemouth to the most commonly used air-to-air, air-to-ground and electronic warfare ranges for the Scottish-based Typhoon fleet. Air-to-air range complexes can be very large, therefore the distance and flying time provided is to the approximate geographic centre of each range complex.

The majority of Typhoon routine training sorties are currently conducted in D613 and D323 training areas. The distance from an operating base to a range area does not determine the overall training value of the sortie as other training objectives can be achieved while in transit.

Range complex	*Straight line distance from Leuchars (nautical miles)*	*Flying time from Leuchars (Mach 0.7) (minutes)*	*Straight line distance from Lossiemouth (nautical miles)*	*Flying time from Lossiemouth (Mach 0.7) (minutes)*
Routine Air-to-Air				
D613 North sea	90	13	112	16
D323 North sea	180	26	250	36
Electronic Warfare				
RAF Spadeadam	76	11	157	22
Air-to-Ground live weapons				
D703 Tain	95	14	22	3
D803 Garvie Island	150	21	73	10
Air-to-Air live weapons				
D201 Aberporth	226	33	300	43

European Union

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the creation of an EU permanent operational headquarters. [74625]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 53W, to my hon. Friends the Members for Redditch (Karen Lumley) and for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison).

Ex-servicemen: Falkland Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department is providing to veterans of the Falklands conflict. [74496]

Mr Robathan: Ex-service personnel, including veterans from the Falklands conflict, have access to a wide range of support, including support from the Veterans' Welfare Service which is available to both veterans and their families.

In addition, from 1 September 2008, the concessionary use of indulgence passages to the Falkland Islands on RAF or Ministry of Defence chartered aircraft has been available to veterans of the 1982 South Atlantic Conflict who have been awarded the South Atlantic Medal.

In line with the Armed Forces Covenant, we will continue to develop the support available to all personnel during service and beyond working across Government and in partnership with the voluntary and community sectors.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Falklands conflict and *(b)* support veterans of the conflict wishing to return to the Islands to mark the occasion. [74642]

Mr Robathan: Following consultation with the relevant veterans groups, plans for the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s involvement in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Falkland Islands conflict are well advanced. The MOD will provide assistance and support to organised events marking the 30th anniversary. For example, there will be armed forces participation in an event to dedicate a new Falklands memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

From 1 September 2008, the concessionary use of indulgence passages to the Falkland Islands via the airbridge on Royal Air Force or MOD chartered aircraft has been available to veterans (service and civilian) of the 1982 South Atlantic conflict who have been awarded the South Atlantic Medal.

The scheme is sponsored and administered by the South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 (SAMA 82) to whom all applications for, and inquiries about, travel under this concessionary scheme should be submitted. Applicants do not have to be members of the association in order to participate.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to discuss the 30th anniversary of the Falklands conflict with veterans of the conflict. [74495]

Mr Robathan: Falklands conflict veteran groups have been widely consulted during the development of plans to mark the 30th anniversary of the Falklands conflict.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the production of a medal for veterans of the Arctic convoys. [74157]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Government Spokesperson, my noble Friend, Lord De Mauley to my noble Friend, Lord Ashcroft, on 3 October 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA96.

Ex-servicemen: Teachers

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to encourage former service personnel to become teachers. [74068]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The Schools White Paper 2010, The Importance of Teaching, outlined the coalition Government's commitment to encouraging armed forces leavers to become teachers and to work in schools as mentors. We are working closely with the Department for Education, the lead Government Department, to develop and implement this initiative.

Currently, service leavers are encouraged to attend resettlement careers fairs, organised for the armed forces as part of their resettlement programme. The Training Development Agency for Schools are regular attendees who provide specialist advice on routes into teaching.

Guided Weapons: Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the Talon Laser Guided Rocket for use on the Apache helicopter. [74114]

Peter Luff: The Apache helicopter is armed with a range of weapon systems which fulfil all the capability requirements of the platform for Operations HERRICK and ELLAMY. Therefore, there is no current requirement for a Laser Guided Rocket system such as Talon. However, regular assessments of potential weapon systems are conducted to inform future capability requirements.

Gulf War Syndrome

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department plans to commission on Gulf War illnesses up to 2015. [74889]

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to conduct further epidemiological studies on the health of those involved in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. [75056]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has no plans to conduct further, specific studies into the health of those involved in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm although we will continue to monitor any other Gulf research that is published round the world.

The UK and the USA have undertaken a substantial amount of research into Gulf veterans' illness. The research has indicated that there is no illness which is specific to Gulf veterans.

Mortality statistics will continue to be published by the MOD's Defence Analytical Services and Advice organisation and copies will be placed in the Library of the House. The latest report shows there are no statistically significant differences in the total number of deaths between Gulf veterans and a comparison group or for any of the main groups of cause of death.

The MOD has funded work by Cardiff university which identified a range of potential interventions to help rehabilitate ill Gulf veterans. The MOD is facilitating discussions between Cardiff university and the voluntary and charitable sector to see if this work can be developed further.

Guy's and St Thomas NHS Trust

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what future *(a)* funding provision and *(b)* staffing structure he has set for the Medical Assessment Centre at St Thomas' hospital in London. [74888]

Mr Robathan: The Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) is currently being staffed by a consultant psychiatrist with administrative support. An additional £65,000 has been allocated for costs such as rent, patient travel and subsistence costs, office equipment and consumables.

The Department of Health is currently rolling out improved mental health services for veterans. These changes will allow veterans better access to more local services. We will continue to monitor future demand for the MAP in the light of these changes and to provide appropriate resources as long as they are needed. There are no plans to discontinue the MAP service.

Joint Supply Chain Services Group

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans any future sale of the components of the Joint Supply Chain Services group. [74129]

Peter Luff: Defence Equipment and Support's Logistic Commodities and Services group is currently developing a transformation programme which will consider a number of options. These may include the sale or outsourcing of some of its component parts but no decisions have yet been made.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Paveway II bombs, *(b)* Paveway IV bombs, *(c)* Dual Mode Brimstone missiles, *(d)* Hellfire missiles, *(e)* 30mm cannon rounds, *(f)* CRV7 rockets and *(h)* Tomahawk land attack missiles have been used in Operation Ellamy to date; [74109]

(2) how many 4.5 inch shells of each munitions type have been fired from Royal Navy vessels in Operation Ellamy to date. [74111]

Nick Harvey: From the start of current operations in Libya to 6 October 2011, UK forces have employed some 1,470 precision guided munitions, 110 direct fire weapons, 4,100 rounds of direct fire 30 mm cannon rounds and around 240 high explosive or illumination rounds from 4.5 inch naval guns. We carefully select the type of weapon in every engagement to ensure the most appropriate munition is used to deliver the required effect, while minimising the risk of civilian casualties.

The precision guided munitions used include Dual Mode Seeker Brimstone, Enhanced Paveway II, Paveway IV, Storm Shadow missiles and Tomahawk Land Attack missiles. Direct fire munitions include Hellfire missiles and CRV-7 rockets.

I am withholding the detailed breakdown of individual weapons types expended as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he expects to be saved in *(a)* Resource departmental expenditure limit, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total by (i) withdrawing Sentinel R.1 from service between 2015 and 2020, (ii) not taking Shadow R.1 into permanent RAF service between 2015 and 2020, (iii) not taking Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle into permanent RAF service between 2012 and 2020, (iv) delaying the entry into service of the F-35 until 2020, (v) changing the joint combat aircraft variant from F-35B to F-35C and (vi) capping the number of Typhoon aircraft in service at 107 between 2015 and 2020. [74277]

Peter Luff: Following the strategic defence and security review (SDSR), we announced the decision to withdraw Sentinel R.1 from service once it is no longer required for operations in Afghanistan. This decision is assumed for planning purposes to save approximately £320 million in cash resource DEL and £190 million in capital DEL over the next 10 years.

The Department has no current plans to take Shadow R1 or Reaper into permanent RAF service, and therefore no savings would result.

A number of changes were made to the Joint Combat Aircraft programme during the SDSR and planning round 2010-11, including the change of variant from the F-35B to the F-35C and the decision to introduce it into service in time to enable the delivery of a Carrier Strike capability in around 2020. We expect savings to arise from the delayed in-service date and from the lower unit price acquisition costs and through-life support costs of the F-35C compared with the F-35B. The precise value of these savings remains subject to further work.

The Department has no plans to cap the number of Typhoon aircraft in service at 107 between 2015 and 2020.

None of these measures are expected to have a direct impact on the Department's annually managed expenditure.

Military Bases

Mr Darling: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he plans to have with *(a)* City of Edinburgh Council and *(b)* West Lothian Council on the development of military accommodation at Kirkliston Airfield; [71983]

(2) what discussions he plans to have with the City of Edinburgh Council in relation to *(a)* the disposal of Dreghorn and Redford Barracks and *(b)* a planning brief for both sites; and if he will make a statement. [72003]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* Work on the planned re-basing of armed forces personnel from Germany to Scotland remains at an early stage. It is too early at present to say precisely how the sites will be used. Detailed planning work will now be undertaken, led by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in conjunction with the Army and Royal Air Force. This work will involve the appropriate and necessary engagement with other Government Departments, the Devolved Administrations and local authorities. Work will involve a comprehensive assessment of issues such as impact on schools, health care, etc. and the broader local economy and environment.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* learning or education, *(b)* exercise and *(c)* other facilities are planned for the new base at Kirknewton. [73349]

Nick Harvey: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up detailed plans for the future of Kirknewton. However it is too early at this time to say precisely what facilities, including those for learning, education, or for exercise are planned for the base.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects the Royal Military Police based at Edinburgh Castle to be moved as part of the outcome of the basing review; and where they will be based after any such move. [73350]

Nick Harvey: The announcement made by the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, set out our strategic long-term direction on the structure of the Army and its basing requirements across the United Kingdom. Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of these changes within the Army.

Until this work is complete and further detail is known about the size and type of units that will be required to support the future Army lay down in Scotland, it is too soon to confirm how this will affect individual units or indeed to confirm where they will reside in the future.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on service families of movement of service children between Scottish and English education systems following the outcome of the basing review; [73353]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcome of the basing review on the *(a)* capacity, *(b)* costs and *(c)* operation of the Queen Victoria School in Dunblane. [73355]

Mr Robathan: There has, to date, been no specific assessment of the effect of the outcome of the basing review on the capacity, costs and operation of the Queen Victoria School (QVS), or on the likely effects of movement of service children between Scottish and English education systems.

Until the more detailed work arising from the basing review is complete, it is too soon to be able to assess any such resultant effects. However, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) is represented at the Scottish Service Children Stakeholders' Network (SCSN), a forum led by the Scottish Directorate for Learning and supported by local authorities, schools, the services, schools inspectorate, and the independent sector. We recognise this as a potential issue and are in a position to highlight any issues or concerns.

I can confirm that QVS is currently undergoing an internal review, working closely with Her Majesty's Commissioners at the school and the Service Children's Education Agency to ensure that the school remains viable and continues to play a part in providing support for the families of service personnel. The work will include looking at the infrastructure of the school, ensuring adequate provision of educational support and also reviewing the administrative function within the MOD to benefit the school. This will take into account the changes within the Defence environment in Scotland.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the amount of service family accommodation which will be required under the proposed new employment model in *(a)* Edinburgh and *(b)* Scotland by 2020. [73360]

Mr Robathan: No such assessment has yet been made. Work on the new employment model (NEM) programme is under way and is examining all areas of terms and conditions of service for our personnel. Within this programme is a future accommodation project (FAP) which is addressing single and family accommodation, with the aim to balance the future needs of the service with the aspirations of service personnel for affordable and good quality housing.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work will be required to be completed at RAF Lossiemouth to enable Typhoons to be based there; and what recent estimate he has made of the date by which such work will be completed. [73361]

Mr Robathan: Initial scoping work during the strategic defence and security review identified a number of options to make RAF Lossiemouth ready to support Typhoon operations. More detailed planning is currently being undertaken and the options will be subject to an investment appraisal to ensure that the best value for money solution is identified for defence. Completion dates are dependent on the outcome of the planning process.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the future of the Castlelaw/Dreghorn training area following the outcome of the basing review. [73368]

Mr Robathan: It is too early to say at this time what the future of the Castlelaw/Dreghorn training area may be. A full assessment of the facilities needed to deliver the training requirement will be undertaken once the current basing review work is completed.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the provision of information services to military personnel from Edinburgh, Stirling, Glasgow and elsewhere following the sale of Dreghorn Barracks and closure of Edinburgh HIVE. [73370]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State for Defence's announcement on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-645, set out our strategic long-term direction on the structure of the Army and its basing requirements across the United Kingdom. Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of these changes within the Army and to consider the infrastructure and services necessary to support those units and personnel who will be based in Scotland.

Until this work is complete and further detail is known about the size and type of units that will be required to support the future Army lay down in Scotland, it is too soon to confirm how this will affect individual units or indeed to confirm where they will reside in the future. This will in turn affect the provision of information services to service personnel and their families. No decisions have currently been made on the future of the Edinburgh HIVE.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's Strategic Defence and Security Review, what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* personnel capacity and *(b)* potential for expansion of Glencorse Barracks, Glencorse HIVE and associated facilities. [73371]

Mr Robathan: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up detailed plans for the future of Glencorse Barracks, which will include an assessment of the site's personnel capacity and potential for expansion.

HIVEs provide information services for military personnel and their dependants. The information they provide includes local unit and civilian facilities, places of interest, schools and further education, housing, health care facilities, employment and training opportunities. They are also able to provide a referral service to other agencies and engage with the local authorities and communities. The HIVEs provided by the Army are part of the Army Welfare Service.

It is too early to say at this time what the future of the Glencorse HIVE and its associated facilities may be. A full assessment will only be undertaken once the current basing work is completed.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many accommodation units there are for personnel serving in the *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army at bases in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [73758]

Mr Robathan: Service accommodation is a tri-service asset and is not assigned to any particular branch of the armed services. There are currently 49,122 service family accommodation properties in the UK. As at 10 October 2011, there were 131,104 single living accommodation bedspaces in the UK.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the possible effect on the market values of his Department's Craigiehall, Dreghorn and Redford sites of all three sites being put up for sale at the same time. [75080]

Mr Robathan: A disposals strategy for Craigiehall, Dreghorn and Redford has not yet been agreed, but the initial assessment has assumed a phased disposal of these sites in order to optimise value.

Military Bases: Scotland

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs were of empty service family accommodation in *(a)* Edinburgh and *(b)* Scotland in each of the last five years. [73358]

Mr Robathan: Maintenance of void properties includes both response and pre-planned maintenance, statutory inspections, grounds maintenance, communal areas, void preparation and other associated costs. These costs are shown in the following table:

£ million

(October-September)	*Scotland including Edinburgh*	*Edinburgh only*
2005-06	1.41	0.24
2006-07	1.47	0.29
2007-08	1.38	0.20
2008-09	1.26	0.22
2009-10	1.36	0.27

Figures for the year ending September 2011 are not yet available.

Properties are void for various reasons. For example, they are awaiting routine moves of service personnel, improvement or modernisation work. The Ministry of Defence will always be required to maintain a management margin of void properties to ensure that homes are available for entitled service families when required.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of service family accommodation is empty in *(a)* Edinburgh and *(b)* Scotland. [73357]

Mr Robathan: As at 10 October 2011 the position is as follows:

	Number/percentage
Number of service family accommodation (SFA) in Scotland including Edinburgh	3,628
Number of void SFA in Scotland including Edinburgh	715
Percentage	21.8
Number of SFA in Edinburgh only	757
Number of void SFA in Edinburgh only	105
Percentage	13.9

Properties are void for various reasons, such as they are awaiting routine moves of service personnel, improvement or modernisation work, demolition or disposal. The Ministry of Defence will always be required to hold a number of void properties to ensure that homes for entitled service families are available when required.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

Mr McKenzie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effects of changes to the Ministry of Defence Police budget on its ability to police and secure his Department's estates; and if he will make a statement; [73601]

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Ministry of Defence Police as an armed waterborne security force at HM Dockyards; [74402]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* Following the comprehensive spending review and the strategic defence and security review, consideration has been given to a range of options that will determine the Department's future requirement for the services and capabilities provided by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police. These resources will focus on those areas where civil policing powers can best mitigate the crime and security risks faced by the MOD. These options are currently the subject of formal consultation with the relevant staff associations and trades unions, and as such it would be inappropriate to go into specific detail at this stage.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the skills *(a)* that the training of Ministry of Defence Police confers and *(b)* provided by privately trained security personnel. [74398]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) police officers are trained to national police standards and enjoy the full range of constabulary powers within their permitted jurisdiction. The requirement for MOD police services and capabilities is therefore focused on those areas of defence business where the availability of civil policing powers can best mitigate the crime and security risks faced by the MOD.

Any private sector company awarded a contract to provide unarmed guarding services at a defence establishment must have a training programme in place that ensures a mandated minimum level of training for all guards in order to deliver the level of service required. This training is augmented by local induction training and relevant site familiarisation training specific to the duties being undertaken. All commercial guards employed at defence sites must be licensed in accordance with Security Industry Association regulations. In addition, and within nine months of the award of an MOD guarding contract, at least 30% of the guards employed must possess a relevant National or Scottish Vocational Qualification.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what specialist roles in relation to the UK nuclear deterrent are carried out by the Ministry of Defence Police; and what plans he has for their future. [74399]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) requires the MOD police to maintain a range of specialist policing capabilities in order to ensure the secure and uninterrupted operation of the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Ministry of Defence Police's Criminal Investigation Department in *(a)* preventing terrorism, *(b)* discovering security breaches, *(c)* investigating fraud and *(d)* gathering intelligence; and if he will make a statement. [74400]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence police (MOD) Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is subject to scrutiny by a number of statutory bodies, who also comment upon the force's effectiveness. In 2010 an inspection of the force's major crime capability, and public order (focusing on protestor activity), was conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. In 2011 the Office of Surveillance Commissioners undertook a review of aspects of the force's intelligence gathering. In addition the independent MOD police committee routinely receives a summary of fraud and significant crime inquiries investigated by the CID, and subsequent financial recoveries.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the Ministry of Defence Police have been deployed overseas *(a)* in support of military operations by HM Forces and *(b)* on training missions in the last five years. [74401]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the occasions on which Ministry of Defence police officers have been deployed overseas in the last five years, their locations and the tasks they have undertaken.

Location	*Period of time*	*Mission*	*Task*
Afghanistan (Op Herrick)	Ongoing	Provincial Reconstruction Team—Rule of Law (MOD Support 2 Operations)	Mentoring and Training
Afghanistan	Ongoing	NATO Training Mission European Policing (EUPOL)	Senior Police Advisers—Training
Kosovo	Ongoing	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (F&CO) United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and European Mission in Kosovo (EULEX)	Executive Policing, Monitoring Mentoring and Training
Iraq (Op Telic)	Until 2009	F&CO International Secondment Team (IST) Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA)	Senior Police Advisors Mentoring and Training
Jordan	Until December 2006	F&CO IST (CPA)	Training
Sierra Leone	March to October 2007	F&CO IST	Monitoring
Sudan	Until December 2007	F&CO IST (African Union)	Senior Police Advisor—Mentoring
Kenya	September 2008 (4 weeks)	F&CO IST (African Union)	Training
Georgia	Ongoing	F&CO Stabilisation Unit (SU) and European Union Policing Monitoring Mission (EUPMM)	Monitoring
Bosnia	Until June 2006	F&CO IST-EUPMM	Monitoring
Occupied Palestinian Territories	May 2010 to May2011	Department for International Development (DFID)	Senior Police Advisor
Pitcairn	Until February 2007	F&CO IST and Home Office	Community Support
Diego Garcia	November 2007 to January 2008	F&CO IST	Community Support and Monitoring

MOD St Athan

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what services and facilities are available for injured armed forces personnel at MOD St Athan; and if he will make a statement. [74116]

Mr Robathan: Services and facilities available for injured armed forces personnel at Ministry of Defence St Athan are as follows:

A combined primary care rehabilitation facility and regional rehabilitation unit for physiotherapy and group-based exercise therapy for service personnel working and living in South Wales.

A combined medical and dental centre for general practice and dental treatment.

Motor transport to take patients to hospital appointments.

Sports facilities including fitness suites and three gymnasia run by uniformed physical education staff.

A contractual arrangement with Fontegary Leisure Park giving all patients at the rehabilitation facilities access to exclusive sessions in the swimming pool.

Accommodation and messing for service personnel permanently based at MOD St Athan or visiting on temporary duty.

Two service houses adapted for allocation to service personnel with special needs and disabilities.

NATO: Military Exercises

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence *(a)* when and *(b)* from what location the global positioning system was disabled in UK waters during the NATO joint Warrior Exercise 112. [74319]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* Temporary jamming is routinely practised in military exercises as an essential part of preparation for operations. Global positioning system jamming during exercise Joint Warrior 112 took place at various publicised time slots between 4 to 10 October 2011 and was limited to Faraid Head and Loch Ewe sites (which have been used historically to site this capability).

Full details were notified in June to mandated authorities, including the Civil Aviation Authority, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Scottish Government. Each event was closely co-ordinated with local Coastguard authorities who transmitted appropriate warning broadcasts on the mandatory VHF channels throughout the period. The jamming sites themselves also transmitted warnings on VHF before commencement and on completion of each serial. In addition, information booklets were provided on 7 September to local fishing associations, ferry operators and other interested parties making clear to all mariners the authorities to contact for further information.

RAF Lossiemouth

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what date he has set for RAF Lossiemouth to undertake northern quick reaction alert duties. [75208]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* No decisions have yet been made on the exact date of transfer for Northern Quick Reaction Alert duties between RAF Leuchars and RAF Lossiemouth.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Mid Sussex (Mr Soames) of 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1300-01W, on the Navy, what the Order of Battle was for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary on 7 September of each of the last three years; [73511]

(2) how many redundancy notices have been issued to Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel since May 2010; and how many were *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* voluntary; [73512]

(3) what estimate has been made of the number of Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel that will be *(a)* employed and *(b)* made redundant in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15. [73513]

Nick Harvey: The Order of Battle for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) for the three years prior to 2011 remained the same in each year and was as follows:

2008-10

	Number
Fleet tankers	2
Support tankers	2
Small fleet tankers	2
Fleet replenishment ships	4
Landing ship dock	4
Aviation training ship	1
Forward repair ship	1

RFA personnel have been offered compensation terms as per the Ministry of Defence Voluntary Early Release Scheme (2011). This is an ongoing process, but as of 11 October 2011, 238 RFA personnel have been accepted for release by the end of March 2012. There are currently no plans for any compulsory redundancies for RFA personnel.

The manpower projections for the RFA for the next three years are as follows:

Personnel

	Number
2012-13	1,973
2013-14	1,934
2014-15	1,911

Service Pupil Premium

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the Scottish Government on the introduction of the service pupil premium for service children attending maintained schools in England. [73354]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence officials are in regular contact with the Scottish Government. Where matters are devolved, such as education, the devolved Governments will take forward measures which reflect the different legislative landscape and the way in which their public services are delivered.

Territorial Army

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) with reference to his Department's Strategic Defence and Security Review, what proportion of the increase in the size of the Territorial Army will be based in Edinburgh; and what plans his Department has made to accommodate this increase; [73348]

(2) what the strength is of the Territorial Army; and with reference to his Department's Strategic Defence and Security Review, what assessment he has made of the strength which will be required by 2020; [73362]

(3) what assessment has been made of the capacity of the Territorial Army estate in and around Edinburgh to accommodate the estimated rises in Territorial Army numbers proposed in his Department's Strategic Defence and Security Review. [73369]

Nick Harvey: As of 1 September 2011, the total strength of the Territorial Army (TA) was 30,210.

The previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced the publication of the Future Reserves 2020 study (FR20) to the House on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-65. The FR20 Commission made recommendations that include: the need to take urgent action to stabilise the TA; consideration of new roles for Reservists; adjustments to the balance between Regular and Reserves and recommendations on enablement, force generation and governance. The Government will make a formal response to Parliament regarding the recommendations soon, and until this has been completed, I cannot comment further on the implications.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the Territorial Army is made up of regular attendees. [73364]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 April 2011, there were 20,333 trained officers and soldiers in the Territorial Army, of whom 16,272 were regular attendees.

For the purpose of this question, "regular attendees" have been deemed to be those personnel who have been paid for attending at least one drill night or annual camp within the last six months. This excludes officers and soldiers under initial training, those in the Officer Training Corps and Sponsored Reserves.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has to provide incentives for large employers to promote membership of the Territorial Army to their employees; [73365]

(2) what plans he has to assist small and medium-sized companies to enable their staff to be members of the Territorial Army. [73366]

Mr Robathan: Many different types of incentives exist to encourage employers to support and promote their employees' membership of the Volunteer Reserve Forces. The most relevant and enduring is the articulation of accredited transferable skills, gained from reservist service, which contribute to staff development in businesses of all sizes.

Since April 2005 a simple and effective scheme has been in place, which enables employers to apply for financial assistance to cover certain costs of replacing a Reservist employee if they are mobilised.

Following the announcement by the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has continued to engage with employers and has commissioned an independent qualitative research project, in order to better understand the views of employers. Further research will confirm which type of employer support activities are most suitable, to help increase an employer's support for his employees to become members of the Reserve Forces.

To further support employers in overcoming any difficulties they may have with employing a Reservist, understanding legislation and learning more about the transferable skills gained from reservist service, the MOD sponsors the SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers) Campaign.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army members were recruited in 2010-11. [72950]

Mr Robathan: A total of 145 Territorial Army officers and 4,771 Territorial Army other ranks were recruited during financial year 2010-11.

Third Sector

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding provided by his Department to the third sector has been spent in Wales to provide services and facilities to injured and sick *(a)* serving armed forces personnel and *(b)* veterans in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [74287]

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much he expects to provide in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74832]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 26-28W, to the hon. Member for the Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane).

Since 2008 the Ministry of Defence has not collected estimates of regional expenditure on equipment, non-equipment, or personnel costs as they do not directly support policy making or operations and therefore information on funding provided to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Wales is not available.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) from which locations his Department operates its Hermes 450 system; [74712]

(2) where the Hermes 450 system is deployed. [74713]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Hermes 450 system is deployed in Afghanistan where it is operated by 32 Regiment Royal Artillery, and 47 Regiment Royal Artillery. The system is only operated in theatre.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he expects the current arrangements with Israel in respect of the Hermes 450 system to continue until the deployment of the Watchkeeper; [74714]

(2) for what reasons the deployment of the Watchkeeper did not take place in July 2010; [74715]

(3) whether the Hermes 450 leased from Israel is certified to the same airworthiness standard as a military manned aircraft. [74716]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The service provision contract with Thales UK for the delivery of the Hermes 450 unmanned air system will continue until Watchkeeper enters service. Hermes 450 is certified to the same airworthiness regulatory standards as military manned aircraft.

Watchkeeper has passed a number of significant milestones including software development, integration, operator and maintainer training, and is currently concluding flight trials in the UK. Technical issues encountered during software integration, and the requirement for troops to have more time to train with this new capability before fielding on operations, led us to revise our forecast of initial deployment of Watchkeeper to the first quarter of 2012.

USA: Hawk Aircraft

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost will be in total for two Royal Air Force Hawk fighter jets on tour in the US; and whether his Department will recover those costs from BAE Systems. [75415]

Nick Harvey: The two Hawk T2 aircraft have been leased to BAE Systems, Inc. All costs associated with the lease of the aircraft and RAF personnel will be met by the company. No costs will fall to the UK taxpayer.

TRANSPORT

A17

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to develop proposals for the dualling of the A17 between Newark and Sleaford. [75273]

Norman Baker: This stretch of the A17 is the responsibility of Lincolnshire county council and Nottinghamshire county council. It is for the councils concerned to develop proposals to dual this road if they wish to do so.

Blue Badge Scheme

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will introduce fixed-term blue badges for people who have a temporary disability following an accident. [74636]

Norman Baker: I recognise the case made for assisting those with severe short-term mobility problems, but have to weigh this against the consequences of an extension to the Blue Badge scheme on existing disabled badge holders and on the local authorities who administer and enforce the scheme. I am currently considering the costs and benefits of a number of possible approaches to this issue and I will make a decision on it later this year.

British Rail

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of all payments made and benefits in kind given to former employees of British Rail in each year since 1997. [61367]

Norman Baker: There are historic obligations imposed on the Department for Transport since 1980 in relation to pensions and travel concessions for former employees of British Rail. The annual level of support payments for historic pension obligations is on average £11.9 million. The cost of providing historic travel concessions is in the order of £2.9 million per annum.

Some current staff, who transferred to the Department for Transport following the abolition of the Strategic Rail Authority in 2005 receive retained travel facilities. The cost since 2008 is as follows:

	£
2008-09	33,846.10
2009-10	36,224.99
2010-11	38,034.78

Information for the period 2005-08 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bus Services: Contracts

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the number of bus quality contracts that have been issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities since 2000. [75042]

Norman Baker: Bus Quality Contract schemes are made by local authorities. Since the Local Transport Act 2008 came into effect in 2009, the Secretary of State no longer approves schemes and has no role in their making.

The Department understands that no Quality Contract schemes have yet been made.

Crossrail Line: Rolling Stock

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what weighting she expects to give to the credit rating of bidders in the procurement of rolling stock for Crossrail. [75261]

Mrs Villiers: The procurement of the Crossrail rolling stock is being undertaken by Crossrail Limited on behalf of the two sponsors, Transport for London and the Department for Transport. The procurement is under way with invitation to tender documentation and evaluation criteria currently being developed by Crossrail Limited.

The evaluation criteria have yet to be finalised but, as has been the case in previous large transport procurements following the prequalification process, it is unlikely that the underlying parent company credit ratings will be specifically scored.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many days on average her Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75021]

Norman Baker: The central Department and its agencies recorded the following in respect of staff sickness absence during the 2010-11 financial year:

Staff sickness: 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

Grade	*Average working days lost*
AA	8.6
AO	8.2
EO	9.1
HEO	5.5
SEO	4.5
G7	5.1
G6	4.2
SCS	1.5
Average working days lost per staff year	7.7
Total staff employed in period	19,718

These figures are calculated according to guidance provided by the Cabinet Office, to whom we report on a quarterly basis.

Gatwick Airport Station

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons she has rejected the request from Southern Railways to vary its franchise so that it is not obliged to install gates at Gatwick Airport Station; and if she will make a statement. [66128]

Norman Baker: I have concluded that the proposal is not sensible for the Department as it does not support either the general principle of Sir Roy McNulty's review in getting cost out of the industry nor the specific finding on the introduction of gating and realising the potential of Great British rail.

The proposal is also contrary to the simplification of fares and could inhibit opportunities for smartcard ticketing.

Large Goods Vehicles: Accidents

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcyclists have *(a)* incurred injuries and *(b)* been killed in a road traffic accident involving a heavy goods vehicle in each of the last five years. [73089]

Mike Penning: The number of motorcyclists injured in reported personal injury road accidents involving heavy goods vehicles in Great Britain, in each of the last five years is given in the following table:

Reported motorcyclist casualties in personal injury road accidents involving heavy goods vehicles in GB, 2006-10

	Injured[1]	*Killed*
2006	470	55
2007	478	49
2008	422	51
2009	355	31
2010	325	32

[1] Includes serious and slight injuries.

Parking: Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent consideration she has given to amending legislation to allow local authorities access to overseas driver and vehicle registration data to enable the enforcement of parking fines. [74148]

Mike Penning: No consideration has recently been given to amending legislation to allow local authorities access to overseas driver and vehicle registration data for the enforcement of parking fines. For matters relating to cross-border co-operation to be effective, there would need to be reciprocal arrangements co-ordinated by the European Union.

Procurement: Questionnaires

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73831]

Norman Baker: The Department has issued instructions that eliminate the use of pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements below £100,000.

Railways: Ipswich

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the number of single rail journeys made between Ipswich and London Liverpool Street Station in each year since 2001. [73752]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. National Express East Anglia operates the services between Ipswich and London Liverpool Street. They can be contacted at the following address:

National Express East Anglia
Norwich Railway Station
Station Approach
Norwich
NR1 1EF
Tel: 0845 600 7245

Statistics showing the annual numbers of passengers entering, exiting and interchanging at each station on the rail network are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), although these do not identify the origins or destinations of these passengers. This can be found on the ORR website at the following link:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1529

Roads: Severe Weather

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to maintain the number of winter treatment routes in the area 10 network. [73773]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency will maintain the same number of winter treatment routes during winter 2011-12 as in winter 2010-11, for the geographical area known as area 10. For winter 2012-13, the Highways Agency will have a new maintenance contract for area 10, and although the number of treated routes may change, the level of winter service will remain unchanged.

Roads: Construction

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will assess the capacity of the private sector to provide capital for the building of roads in place of the public sector; [71923]

(2) whether her Department is considering raising financial contributions for the building of roads from private companies. [71978]

Mike Penning: The Department is keen to find opportunities for private investment to support improvement in the road network.

The Department assesses that significant capacity exists in the private sector to provide capital for road building if the conditions for investment are right.

Roads: Motor Vehicles

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment has been made through roadside checks of levels of compliance with legal requirements relating to weights, condition of vehicles and driver's hours; and how often roadside checks are carried out. [73959]

Mike Penning: In addition to its routine targeted checks of heavy vehicles that the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) conducts, it conducts specific roadside checks to determine compliance levels. These are conducted every second year for each type of vehicle.

The latest results (2010) are summarised as follows—showing the percentage of vehicles that were found compliant—ie offences were not found.

Percentage

	Vehicle condition		
	Vehicle	*Trailer*	*Traffic—including drivers' hours and weight*
GB HGV	75.7	79.3	85.3
Non-GB HGV	70.3	65.9	83.6

VOSA conducted the following number of targeted roadside checks in the last three years;

	Number
2010-11[1]	276,124
2009-10	313,625
2008-09	225,410

[1] Figures are taken from VOSA's draft 2010-11 Effectiveness report which will be published shortly. Older versions are available from http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/publications/corporatereports/corporatereports.htm

Please note VOSA holds data on the number of tests rather than the number of vehicles, vehicles can be tested for more than one item at the roadside.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has provided guidance to Bombardier to assist them in bidding for future rolling stock procurement contracts tendered by her Department. [75263]

Mrs Villiers: The Department cannot give specific guidance to manufacturers while they are bidding for contracts as to do so would bias the competitive tendering process.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the determining factors were in the selection of Siemens as preferred bidder for the Thameslink contract; and if she will make a statement. [75262]

Mrs Villiers: The evaluation criteria are contained in the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project Invitation to Tender dated 27 November 2008. A copy is available on the DFT website:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/thameslinkrollingstock/itt/invitation.pdf

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department will take to ensure the proper representation of women at the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn in December 2011. [75419]

Alistair Burt: We have made clear that it is important that women participate as fully as possible in the political process in Afghanistan. We are following closely the preparations for civil society participation in Bonn which are being led by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. We welcome the work of the Afghan Women's Network to co-ordinate roundtable discussions between Afghan officials and civil society in the run up to the conference.

We continue to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan, local and international non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and international partners to improve the status of women in Afghanistan, so that they can play a full role in a future, peaceful Afghan state.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Afghanistan on the involvement of women in the peace and reconciliation process in that country. [75420]

Alistair Burt: As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), told the House on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 773:

"Women have a very important role, in our view, in the future of Afghanistan".

In all our contact with the Government of Afghanistan, we continue to make clear that any political settlement should be inclusive and address the concerns of all Afghan citizens. We welcome the work of the Government of Afghanistan to take forward a political process of reconciliation and reintegration for Afghans who meet its end-state conditions of renouncing violence, breaking ties with al-Qaeda and abiding by the Afghan constitution, including its protection for all Afghan men and women.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he has any plans to discuss with his *(a)* Mauritian and *(b)* US counterpart the British Indian Ocean Territory. [74499]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has no current plans to speak with his Mauritian or American counterparts on the subject of the British Indian Ocean Territory.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with their *(a)* Mauritian and *(b)* US counterparts on the British Indian Ocean Territory. [74500]

Mr Bellingham: Officials and our high commissioner in Port Louis have regular discussions with their Mauritian counterparts.

The annual UK-US political/military talks on the British Indian Ocean Territory were held at official level in Washington on 22-23 September.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73190]

Mr Lidington: The costs to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of employing civil servants to undertake procurement in the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In 2010-11 the cost of civil servants in a formal procurement role was £1.16 million. Our current estimate of the cost of full-time civil servants in the current financial year is £1.41 million. While this indicates an increase in costs, this is as a result of moving distributed procurement expertise from other parts of the business to provide a more centralised procurement department to improve efficiency.

We estimate that the cost of consultancy services engaged on procurement in 2011-12 will be £90,000. This reflects a decrease in the use of procurement consultancy specialists who now have to be approved by the Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG) as part of the Government-wide consultancy approval process.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department has entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74202]

Mr Lidington: Procurement responsibilities and the awarding of contracts are devolved to directorates in London and posts overseas. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Foreign Investment in the UK

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which his Department focuses on promoting trade and inward investment. [73302]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have set out a very clear ambition for the UK's trade and investment agenda. Trade and inward investment was one of the themes in the first phase of the Growth Review.

Working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department that helps UK based businesses succeed in the global economy and assists overseas companies to bring their high-quality investment to the UK. UKTI's strategy, 'Britain Open for Business', launched in May 2011, sets out plans to provide practical support to exporters and inward investors over the next five years. Its purpose is to help our economy grow by boosting exports and encouraging foreign companies to invest in the UK.

At the same time, and complementary to UKTI's strategy, the FCO launched its Charter for Business. This sets out seven commitments that the FCO will make, as a part of its core activity, to support UK business overseas and to attract investors to the UK. Further details can be found at:

www.fco.gov.uk

UKTI uses its network of staff across the globe to showcase UK strengths in sectors where we have world-beating capability and this can pay big commercial dividends, particularly in the more challenging emerging markets.

According to independent research, UK companies attributed £6 billion worth of additional profits directly to the assistance of UKTI during 2010-11. That is an additional £22 of profit for every £1 spent on export promotion. In addition, in 2010-11 UKTI assisted more foreign direct investment projects than ever before—849 of 1,434 projects entering the UK (59%).

The UKTI website:

www.ukti.gov.uk

gives further information on UKTI services and its strategy.

Ghana: Deportation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Ghanaian nationals have been deported from the UK to Ghana in each of the last 10 years. [74242]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

The following table provides the available information on total number of Ghana nationals who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK to Ghana by type in each year from 2004 to 2010. Data for earlier years are not available.

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2], by type, nationals of Ghana to Ghana, January 2004 to December 2010

							Number of departures
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010[8]*
Removals and voluntary departures, nationals of Ghana to Ghana	1,170	1,187	858	868	1,050	862	845
of which: enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[3,4]	840	873	497	544	604	520	440
Assisted Voluntary Returns[5]	1	4	24	35	52	65	71
Other voluntary departures[6]	n/a	4	35	34	116	111	234
Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[7]	329	306	302	255	278	166	100

n/a = not applicable

[1] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[2] Destination as recorded on source database.

[3] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by Enforcement Officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[4] Since October 2006, figures include persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.

[5] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by Refugee Action from April 2011 (previously run by the International Organization for Migration) . May include some cases leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants Programme and some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.

[6] Since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[7] Figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, removals performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers and since 2005 a small number of cases who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[8] Provisional.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in tables rv.01 to rv.08 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

International Trade

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress towards his Department's objective of *(a)* doubling trade with India, *(b)* increasing trade with China to 100 billion US dollars per annum, *(c)* increasing exports to China to 30 billion US dollars per annum, *(d)* doubling trade with Kuwait, *(e)* doubling trade with Qatar, *(f)* increasing trade with the United Arab Emirates to £12 billion per annum, *(g)* doubling trade with South Africa and *(h)* doubling trade with Turkey. [73303]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Progress towards achieving these objectives is a long-term commitment for the Government.

UK Trade and Investment and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, supported by a whole-of-government effort, lead on this work. The Government's aim is to use their networks of staff across the globe to showcase UK strengths in sectors where we have world-beating capability. This can pay big commercial dividends, particularly in the more challenging emerging markets.

As trade statistics are a lagging indicator, they will be registered in subsequent exercises that feed into departmental and Government-level assessments.

Israel: Official Visits

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what prior agreement was reached between the Government and the Government of Israel on special mission status for the visit to the UK of the Leader of the Opposition in Israel; what the terms of the agreement were; and on what date it was agreed. [74145]

Alistair Burt: There was no formal agreement with the Government of Israel on special mission status. In Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) practice, there are no prescribed formalities for consenting to a special mission, but such consent may be inferred from the circumstances of any given visit.

In relation to the visit to the UK by the Leader of the Opposition of Israel, Mrs Livni, on 5-6 October, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), agreed on 27 September that she should visit the UK in order to discuss matters of mutual interest in relations between Israel and the UK. Detailed arrangements for the visit were then agreed between the FCO and the embassy of Israel.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions special mission status has been granted to visiting politicians of opposition parties in Israel in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [74164]

Alistair Burt: We do not have central records of opposition politicians who have visited the UK (Israeli politicians included) in the past 10 years, nor of the particular circumstances of each visit or whether they were designated as special missions.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have been held with the Government of Israel on the granting of special mission status to Israeli opposition politicians visiting the UK; and if he will make a statement. [74265]

Alistair Burt: Subsequent to the visit by Leader of the Opposition of Israel, Mrs Livni, on 5-6 October, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have explained to the Israeli embassy how special mission status is considered and that each visit is treated on its own merits.

Official Visits

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions special mission status has been granted to visiting politicians of opposition parties in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [74163]

Alistair Burt: We do not have central records of opposition politicians who have visited the UK in the past five years, nor of the particular circumstances of each visit or whether they were designated as special missions.

Syria: Arms Control

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to prevent the export of arms to Syria. [75266]

Alistair Burt: The British Government led the way in introducing the EU arms embargo on Syria which came into force on 9 May 2011. We will continue to work with our international partners to push for strong international action to stop the transfer of arms to Syria.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Coastal Access Pathway

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish her timetable for development of the coastal access pathway in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* England. [72974]

Richard Benyon: We announced our plans to introduce the new right of coastal access on a 30 km stretch of the English coast between Portland and Lulworth Cove in Dorset in time for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events, which begin in July 2012. Natural England is also currently working on proposals to implement coastal access in a further five areas around the coast, including a stretch of the Hartlepool, Durham and Sunderland coast. Natural England has completed the initial stage of discussing the options for the coastal route with owners and land managers of land that may be affected in this area. I understand that Natural England is aiming to publish its draft report for public consultation by the end of January 2012.

DEFRA officials are reviewing the costs and lessons learnt from the current implementation with Natural England so we can ensure that coastal access is delivered as cost-effectively as possible.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to publish a timetable for the creation of the English coastal path; and if she will make a statement. [73142]

Richard Benyon: We announced our plans to introduce the new right of coastal access on a 30 km stretch of the English coast between Portland and Lulworth Cove in Dorset in time for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events, which begin in July 2012. Natural England is also currently working on proposals to implement coastal access in a further five areas around the coast, as we announced in October 2010. When proposals for the coastal route have been prepared in each of the five areas Natural England will start a period of local consultation.

DEFRA officials are reviewing the costs and lessons learnt from the current implementation with Natural England so we can ensure that coastal access is delivered as cost effectively as possible.

Biodiversity

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the development of the biodiversity offsetting pilots. [73953]

Richard Benyon: Biodiversity offsetting pilots will run for two years, starting in April 2012. There will be an independent evaluation of the pilots, supported by evidence from any complementary projects running in parallel.

Ministerial Meetings

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish on her Department's website details of ministerial meetings in 2011. [72001]

Richard Benyon: We have already published details of ministerial meetings for the January to March quarter of 2011 in line with the Cabinet Office guidelines at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/ministers/transparency/

We will shortly publish details for the second quarter of 2011 along with other Government Departments.

Elephants: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what agreements were reached on a decision-making mechanism for any future ivory sales at the CITES Standing Committee meeting on 15 to 19 August 2011. [73536]

Richard Benyon: The meeting confirmed the commissioning of an independent study on the development of a decision-making mechanism. The study will be co-ordinated by the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) secretariat in consultation with stakeholders, including African and Asian elephant range states, plus China, Japan, the USA and the UK. The resulting report will identify options for possible decision-making mechanisms for consideration at the next CITES Standing Committee in 2012 and eventual presentation to the next CITES Conference of the Parties in 2013.

Fly-tipping

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse of dealing with fly-tipping *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Yorkshire was in each of the last three years. [72754]

Richard Benyon: The costs incurred by local authorities over the last three years for which published data are available for the clearing and disposal of fly-tipped waste in *(a)* England; and *(b)* Yorkshire and Humberside are provided in the following table:

Estimated costs of clearance and disposal of fly-tipped waste

£ million

	Yorkshire and Humberside	*England*
2007-08	6.6	63.7
2008-09	5.9	55.1
2009-10	4.7	45.8

It should be noted that fly-tipping data are reported on a local authority and not a county basis. The authorities that fall under Yorkshire and Humberside produce these figures which have been taken from the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme Government Office regional statistics.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in each local authority area in the north-west in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the estimated cost of dealing with those incidents was. [72791]

Richard Benyon: A table summarising the data requested for the north-west region[1] as a whole is provided as follows. A table breaking down the data by local authority has been deposited in the House Library.

£ million

	Total number of fly-tipping incidents recorded by local authorities in north-west[1] England	*Estimated costs to local authorities of clearance and disposal of fly-tipped waste*
2005-06	1,348,288	43.1
2006-07	1,380,339	20.2
2007-08	145,238	7.5
2008-09	113,862	7.0
2009-10	99,028	5.7

[1] The authorities included within the north-west England heading have been taken from the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme Government Office region.

Source:

Flycapture database, September 2011.

Litter

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the performance of Keep Britain Tidy in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [73522]

Richard Benyon: A review of the grant-aided work of Keep Britain Tidy (then known as ENCAMS, an abbreviation of Environmental Campaigns) was conducted in 2007. It concluded that overall the organisation was efficient, well-run and delivering good work towards DEFRA's local environment quality aims.

A copy of the review will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Keep Britain Tidy has long been a trusted adviser and partner for the Government on litter and other local environment quality issues. Its work has been central to the development of the Love Where You Live campaign, which uses funds from business to raise awareness of the litter problem and change attitudes and behaviour. The Government will continue to work with Keep Britain Tidy across the spending review period on these issues that matter greatly to everyone.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the level of litter in each year since 2001. [73450]

Richard Benyon: Each year since 2001, Keep Britain Tidy has carried out the Local Environment Quality Survey of England on the Government's behalf, which presents information about litter levels.

Copies of the detailed reports are available on Keep Britain Tidy's website.

The following table summarises the percentage of sites surveyed that were graded poor or unsatisfactory for litter levels.

	Litter (percentage)
2001-02	18
2002-03	21
2003-04	13
2004-05	11
2005-06	15
2006-07	21
2007-08	18
2008-09	14
2009-10	16

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department has given directly to *(a)* Keep Britain Tidy and *(b)* other anti-litter initiatives in each year since 2001. [73451]

Richard Benyon: The following table sets out the annual grant to Keep Britain Tidy since 2001.

	Annual grant (£ million)
2001-02	3.54
2002-03	3.57
2003-04	3.52
2004-05	3.96
2005-06	5.54
2006-07	5.09
2007-08	4.63
2008-09	5.00
2009-10	4.75
2010-11	4.00

No funds have gone to other anti-litter initiatives.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider providing greater powers to local authorities to deal with people caught littering. [73515]

Richard Benyon: Local authority enforcement officers already have a range of powers to deal with litterers. Littering is a criminal offence under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Offenders can be prosecuted in a magistrates court, and on conviction may be fined up to £2,500 and receive a criminal record. As an alternative to prosecution local authority enforcement officers can issue a fixed penalty notice for a sum between £50 and £80 set locally.

Nature Conservation

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice her Department has provided to the Environment Agency's National Permitting Centre on compliance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive in scrutiny of planned developments which may affect river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) where such developments are a distance from the SAC. [72984]

Richard Benyon: Competent authorities such as the Environment Agency are required to ensure that development proposals (plans or projects) are scrutinised to identify any impacts on European protected sites such as SACs. Where the plan or project may have a significant effect on a site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site, an appropriate assessment must be made by the relevant competent authorities.

Guidance on the assessment process is contained in DEFRA Circular 01/2005 and in documents issued by the European Commission. The competent authority is also required to consult the appropriate nature conservation body when carrying out an assessment and that body will provide advice in individual cases.

Recycling: Education

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much her Department spends on educational projects directly associated with recycling; [71592]

(2) what funding her Department is providing to support education on recycling and the reduction of use of plastics in schools. [71612]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not provide direct financial support to any educational projects associated with recycling. However, DEFRA does provide funding to various organisations that have a role providing education and information relating to recycling and sustainable waste management, such as: local authorities, Keep Britain Tidy, Eco-Schools and the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

Seas and Oceans

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to help increase levels of access to the coastline. [74234]

Richard Benyon: The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides for a new right of access for people to walk around the English coast, which will open up the English coastline for people to enjoy the natural environment and help support local economies by encouraging tourism.

We have announced plans to introduce the new right of coastal access on a 30 km stretch of the English coast between Portland and Lulworth Cove in Dorset in time for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events, which begin in July 2012. Natural England is also currently working on proposals to implement coastal access in a further five areas around the coast, as we announced in October 2010.

Sewage

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish her Department's consultation on the registration of small domestic sewage discharges from septic tanks. [72041]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and Environment Agency officials are currently undertaking a review regarding the requirement to register. The review includes engaging with key players such as the Country Land and Business Association, the National Farmers Union, and water companies etc, to develop proposals on an alternative approach. Once the review has been completed we will propose the way forward, probably around the turn of the year. In the meantime, the Environment Agency has suspended the registration system in England and there is no need for householders to register.

Wild Boar

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what scientific advice her Department has received on the efficacy of a cull of wild boar on land managed by the Forestry Commission. [70414]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not received scientific advice on the efficacy of a cull of wild boar on land managed by the Forestry Commission.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Construction

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to deal with disreputable builders. [73172]

Andrew Stunell: The primary responsibility for policy on disreputable builders lies with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. This Department has authorised a number of building regulations competent person schemes whose registered members have been assessed as competent to carry out building work to the standards required in the building regulations and we encourage building owners to choose to employ such members. All such competent person schemes have procedures in place to deal with any problems with the work carried out.

Construction: Death

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries have been caused by the failure of (i) freestanding and (ii) retaining walls in each of the past five years; [73173]

(2) whether he intends to bring freestanding and retaining walls within the scope of defined building works. [73174]

Andrew Stunell: The only information held centrally on numbers of deaths and injuries caused by the failure of freestanding or retaining walls is that held by the Health and Safety Executive arising from statutory duties to report certain work-related injuries under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. Information on the failure of these types of walls in other situations, such where a domestic owner occupier's wall collapses through neglect and injures a passer-by is not held centrally.

However, my Department, under the last Administration, previously evaluated the potential of bringing freestanding and retaining boundary walls under building regulations control. This work identified that over a 10-year period between 1985 and 1995 that there were about 1,000 injuries per year sustained from the collapse or partial collapse of freestanding walls and on average less than one death per year. While we have not been able to establish a case for bringing such walls under the scope of building regulations, my Department has published guidance in a leaflet on wall design, construction and maintenance, "Your Garden Walls—Better to be Safe than Sorry", which is available on the planning portal.

We will shortly be launching a review on changes to the building regulations and we will use this consultation to explain the work that has been done to date on freestanding and retaining walls.

Counter-terrorism

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what transitional arrangements have been made with the Home Office for the transfer of responsibility for the Prevent strategy. [74517]

Andrew Stunell: The Prevent programme we inherited from the last Government was flawed. It confused the delivery of Government policy to promote integration with Government policy to prevent terrorism. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), launched a new Prevent strategy in June, following the independent review overseen by Lord Carlile of Berriew. This new strategy defines far more strongly than before the proper scope of Prevent as an integral part of counter-terrorism strategy. There is now a clear separation between Prevent—led by the Home Office, and broader integration work—led by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Of course, we continue to work closely with Home Office colleagues particularly in the area of extremism and intolerance.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has received representations concerning *(a)* the Big Society Bank, *(b)* the Work programme and *(c)* volunteering since June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [75065]

Andrew Stunell: The Department receives many letters, and officials have many meetings with organisations, on the broad subject of the big society.

These may cover issues regarding the Big Society Bank (now Big Society Capital), volunteering or the Work programme. These questions or issues are addressed according to the context in which they arise, with advice from other Government Departments as necessary.

Empty Properties: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to redevelop empty properties in Redditch and the west midlands. [73080]

Andrew Stunell: It is for the local authority to identify empty homes in their area and to work with landlords to bring them back into use.

To support local authorities in tackling empty homes in England we have introduced a number of measures, to ensure that the right incentives and tools are in place to enable them to work with the owners of empty properties.

We have included empty homes in the 'New Homes Bonus' to provide a strong financial incentive for local authorities to tackle empty homes in their area. The bonus means that the Government will match fund the council tax, using the national average in each band, on new homes and long-term empty properties (dwellings which are empty for six months or more) brought back into use, for six years, with an additional amount being provided for affordable homes.

Redditch, for example, received £164,263 in year one of new homes bonus as a result of increasing their housing supply, including through bringing empty homes back into use, and will receive £985,578 over the next six years following year one delivery.

We will also shortly be consulting on the concept of a council tax premium for empty homes.

On 23 May we launched the 'Geographical Information System (GIS) Empty Homes Mapping Toolkit' and the 'Empty Homes Knowledge Toolkit'. These will help local councils and communities better identify empty homes and as well as providing advice on how to bring them back into use.

In addition, the Department has allocated £100 million through the 'Affordable Homes Programme' to help get empty homes back into productive use. We will shortly be launching the bidding guidance for this funding, which will be available to registered providers of social housing, including local authorities and community, voluntary and self-help groups across England.

Housing

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of *(a)* increasing longevity, *(b)* net immigration, *(c)* average size of household and *(d)* other factors on demand for housing. [73320]

Andrew Stunell: The potential future demand for housing can be indicated by DCLG's household projections. The latest household projections were published on the DCLG website in November 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/2033household1110

They are based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2008-based population projections. The number of households in England is projected to grow to 27.5 million in 2033, an increase of 5.8 million (27%) over 2008, or 232,000 households per annum.

Population growth accounts for around 70% of household growth, with the other factors including age structure, marital status and the propensity to form households.

Variant household projections using different assumptions such as ONS variant population projections can indicate the effect of various demographic factors. This is complicated as effects overlap, for example, increased longevity also contributes to smaller households.

Comparison with the principal household projection of 232,000 per annum shows:

(a) Longevity—average household growth of 170,000 per annum based on the ONS population projection assuming no improvement in life expectancy.

(b) Net migration—average household growth of 149,000 per annum based on the ONS population projection assuming zero net migration.

(c) Average household size—annual average household growth of 155,000 per annum if there were no decrease in average household size.

Housing: Finance

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department is on schedule to release the next Housing Subsidy Determination on 11 November 2011; and on what date he plans to publish the final Housing Subsidy Determination. [74618]

Andrew Stunell: We are on track to issue the draft and final determinations to bring about the implementation of self-financing for council housing to the timetable we set out in our recent policy document entitled 'Self-financing: Planning the transition'. The timing of the issuing of the final determination is, however, subject to achieving Royal Assent for the Localism Bill as this contains the powers under which the determinations are issued.

We will not be publishing a Housing Subsidy Determination as we are ending the existing Housing Revenue Account subsidy system and replacing it with self-financing.

Inform: Finance

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has provided to Inform in each of the last five years. [74546]

Andrew Stunell: Inform, a centre for independent research on new religious movements, has received funding from my Department in each of the last five years as follows:

	£
2007-08	100,000
2008-09	140,000
2009-10	145,375
2010-11	140,000
2011-12	45,000

We are considering whether further grant support is appropriate.

Planning Permission

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what definition he will use for the purposes of the National Planning Strategy for *(a)* countryside, *(b)* green area and *(c)* sustainable; and if he will make a statement; [74845]

(2) if he will substitute the term appropriate development in place of the term sustainable development in his National Planning Strategy. [74846]

Greg Clark: We have undertaken a full 12-week consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. We are now carefully considering all the responses received, and will take these into account in finalising the framework.

Private Rented Housing: Faulty Appliances

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Electrical Safety Council on *(a)* Part P of the Building Regulations and *(b)* fire risks of faulty appliances and installations in the private rented sector. [73852]

Andrew Stunell: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), has had no discussions with the Electrical Safety Council, but I, as Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government responsible for the building regulations, did have a meeting with them on 13 September to discuss the current review of part P of the building regulations.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement; [74775]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74835]

Andrew Stunell: The Government have committed that every Department will put in place Rights to Provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services and DCLG is working towards this. In particular, the Community Right to Challenge in the Localism Bill will enable employees of a local authority to express an interest in taking over running the service they deliver as a mutual.

The Department has also supported the concept of an employee-led bid for the audit work being tendered by the Audit Commission and has worked with the Commission to ensure a level playing field for all potential bidders.

Social Rented Housing: Environmental Health

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to permit environmental health officers to provide abatement orders to social landlords. [74632]

Andrew Stunell: Section 80 of the Environmental Health Act 1990 prescribes circumstances in which local authorities shall serve abatement notices on private registered providers of social housing. I do not however consider that it would be practicable for a local authority to serve an abatement notice against itself in respect of its own housing stock.

There are already appropriate statutory and regulatory mechanisms in place to ensure local authority landlords keep their stock in good condition and a clear route of redress for tenants who feel that their landlord is not fulfilling its responsibilities.

Social Rented Housing: Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has set a target for *(a)* the level of new build of and *(b)* the net increase in social housing. [73240]

Andrew Stunell: We are replacing the previous Government's top down targets with a range of reforms including fiscal incentives for local authorities which ensure they share in the benefits of growth.

We have set no targets for the delivery of new build or the net increase in social housing. We are aiming to deliver up to 170,000 new affordable homes over the spending review period 2011-15.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73980]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not available. All departmental correspondence is logged and dealt with through the departmental central system. However, the system is not sufficiently sophisticated to extract the data requested.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74836]

Andrew Stunell: The Department's records do not differentiate between payments made to civil society organisations and other voluntary and community sector organisations. A list of payments made under section 70 of the Charities Act 2006 to charities and voluntary groups is published in the Department's annual report and resource accounts on a yearly basis.

This information will include payments made by the Department to civil societies for 2010-11. Information on the total payments made in 2011-12 has not yet been finalised and no direct funding has been finalised for future years.

Annual reports and resources accounts for each year are published on the Department's website.

Grant spending of individual amounts over £500 since 2008-09 is also published on the website as part of my Department's broader transparency agenda.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Adaptation Fund

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reasons his Department cannot accept public donations to the United Nations Adaptation Fund. [75287]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not have the legal authority to accept donations from the public.

However, the Adaptation Fund has already accepted direct contributions from German school children and is exploring options for accepting small private donations through the organisation's website so that members of the public can easily support the fund.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 768W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the breakdown of spending was for the £98 million of funding provided by his Department through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. [75223]

Mr O'Brien: The following table provides a breakdown of the £98 million provided by the Department for International Development to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), and estimated to have been spent on infrastructure:

	£ million
National Emergency Employment Programme (NEEP)	18
National Rural Access Programme (NERAP)	18
Assessed proportion of UK funds provided to the National Solidarity Programme, 25% of which was spent on 'Transport'	10
Additional unearmarked funds provided to the ARTF, 15% of which are assessed as having been spent on infrastructure.	52
Total	98

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74984]

Mr O'Brien: For the financial year 2010-11 the average cost to the Department for International Development (DFID) of processing an invoice in the UK is £7.70. We are unable to provide an average cost of processing an invoice across DFID, including our operations in developing countries, without incurring disproportionate costs. With regard all invoices processed across the Department within 2010-11 *(a)* 59% were paid electronically and *(b)* 30% were paid by cheque, with the balance being cash payments. All invoices settled in the UK were paid electronically.

Manpower

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish an organogram showing the *(a)* number and *(b)* job titles of his Department's staff in Afghanistan (i) in each team and (ii) at each grade. [74170]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not publish the numbers of staff or job titles of staff in each country where we operate, as this may represent a security risk, especially to our staff serving in hostile environments or fragile states.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish an organogram showing the *(a)* number and *(b)* job titles of his Department's staff in Pakistan (i) in each team and (ii) at each grade. [74171]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not publish the numbers of staff or job titles of staff in each country where we operate, as this may represent a security risk, especially to our staff serving in hostile environments or fragile states.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department are currently stationed in *(a)* British Overseas Territories and *(b)* the Turks and Caicos Islands. [74468]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not publish the numbers of staff in each country where we operate, as this may represent a security risk, especially to our staff serving in hostile environments or fragile states.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent officials in his Department were responsible for investigating fraud in each of the last three years; and what the locations were of those officials. [74975]

Mr O'Brien: In 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Department for International Development (DFID) had 5.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) officials responsible for fraud investigations within the Counter Fraud Unit located in East Kilbride, Scotland, and a further 0.5 FTE located in London. These resources were supplemented by external investigators (in the UK or overseas) as required.

For 2011-12, DFID is making greater and more targeted use of forensic accountants and external investigators to strengthen its ability to investigate allegations and help fraud-proof its programmes. There are now 3.5 FTE officials responsible for investigations located in East Kilbride and 1.5 FTE located in London, reinforced by a worldwide framework contract for external specialist investigators.

Developing Countries: Tax Evasion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the dependency of developing countries on international aid; what recent assessment he has made of the effects on developing countries of *(a)* increasing provision of capacity building to strengthen tax systems and *(b)* reducing capital flight by ensuring that international (i) taxation and (ii) transparency rules protect developing countries from tax evasion; and if he will make a statement. [74692]

Mr O'Brien: By promoting development, the UK's aid programme should over the long term help to reduce the dependency of developing countries on aid. Improving tax systems can be an important part of this. Effective tax systems are central to effective states and can help to reduce aid dependency.

The UK provides capacity building to help strengthen tax systems in developing countries. As well as collecting revenue, good tax systems also encourage accountability and better governance. The Government have supported the creation of semi-independent revenue authorities in countries including Uganda, Mozambique and Rwanda, significantly improving revenue collection. In Burundi, the UK is helping to establish an independent revenue authority which is already expecting to raise £35 million more revenue this year than last year.

The Government strongly support improvements in international tax information exchange to help all countries, including developing countries, tackle tax evasion and avoidance. The work of the Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information, which the UK fully supports and which developing countries are being encouraged to join, is particularly important in this respect. In addition, one of the Government's first acts on coming into office was to sign up to a new international protocol strengthening the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/ Council of Europe Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.

The UK is also working bilaterally, through the OECD and through the OECD Tax and Development Task Force, to provide technical assistance for developing countries with transfer pricing, to enhance their ability to assess and collect the tax they are owed.

The Government have made clear that we will press at the European Union (EU) for requirements to be placed on EU extractive industry companies to disclose the payments they make to Governments. Such disclosures will enable the citizens of resource rich countries to see what their Governments receive from the exploitation of natural resources and promote accountability in the use of these funds.

Developing Countries: Taxation

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist developing countries to collect taxes they are owed by multi-national companies. [73064]

Mr O'Brien: The Government are providing support to strengthen the tax systems of a number of developing countries including Tanzania, Pakistan and Afghanistan. In some cases, such as in Burundi and Mozambique, our support includes help in establishing or strengthening units to deal with large taxpayers, which include multi-national companies or local companies in which multi-nationals have shares.

We also support global efforts to ensure that developing countries are able to participate in tax information exchange, to combat tax evasion and avoidance. One of this Government's first acts on coming to office was to support extending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters to developing countries.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73208]

Mr O'Brien: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Ghana

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials of his Department are posted to Ghana. [74239]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not publish the numbers of staff in each country where we operate, as this may represent a security risk, especially to our staff serving in hostile environments or fragile states.

Oil

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with oil companies since January 2011; and if he will publish the minutes of such meetings. [74890]

Mr O'Brien: Details of ministerial meetings are available on the website of the Department for International Development (DFID) at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/Our-organisation/Ministers/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Overseas Aid

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultation takes place with local communities in developing countries when implementing policies encouraged and funded by British overseas aid; and if he will make a statement. [73978]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government have made a commitment to

> "give people more power and control over how aid is spent"

as part of the wider commitment to increase transparency and value for money.

The Government support consultation with local communities before policies are implemented to make sure they are the right policies. It also supports feedback on their implementation to make sure results are being delivered on the ground. For example:

The Government aim to ensure that people's priorities for poverty reduction inform our investments in health, education and other policies—e.g. through Participatory Poverty Assessments.

Consulting directly with priority groups—for example, enabling girls themselves to carry out research in communities, focusing on what issues are important to girls and what are their ambitions.

Exploring innovative ways to consult communities using new technologies. Through one pilot, local communities will be able to feed back information on how aid is used, using web platforms to plot stories and feedback on a live map.

Pakistan: Floods

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the extent of monsoon flooding in the Pakistani province of Sindh; and what assistance his Department is offering. [75226]

Mr O'Brien: According to assessments made by the UN and the Government of Pakistan, the number of people affected by the 2011 monsoon in Sindh has reached at least 5.44 million. The UK continues to work with the UN and the Government of Pakistan to monitor the situation closely. The UN Rapid Response Plan will be revised in November to reflect revised relief and recovery needs.

The UK anticipated possible further flooding in Pakistan this year and pre-positioned thousands of tents, blankets and hygiene kits through the International Federation of the Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent Society in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. The UK also provided assistance to the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) to provide emergency shelter kits to over 37,000 people in Sindh. We are also supporting the World Health Organisation's Disease Early Warning System, which is helping to prevent outbreaks of major health epidemics in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. In response to the initial UN Rapid Response Plan, the UK provided further support to IOM to deliver emergency shelter and flood resistant new homes to more than 255,000 affected people in Sindh.

Population: Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to tackle the negative effects of rapid population growth on sustainable development. [73012]

Mr O'Brien: Rapid population growth will place a significant strain on the ability of Governments to deliver basic services such as health and education. Even with economic growth, the increase in global population is likely to build additional pressure on natural resources with some regions of the world experiencing increased water scarcity, food shortages and new challenges for sustainable energy supplies and land availability.

The UK Government are working closely with others to advance a comprehensive understanding of the role of population dynamics (specifically the demographic dividend associated with declining fertility) in helping achieve increased economic productivity and rising per capita income in developing economies. The lack of choices for women and girls and their inability to be able to exercise control over their own fertility is a major cause of poverty and also contributes to population growth. Some 215 million women, desperately wanting to delay or avoid pregnancy, are not using an effective method of family planning.

The UK's Framework for Results "Choices for women: Planned pregnancies, safe births and healthy newborns" sets out how the Government will double their efforts on women's and children's health. It commits us to enabling at least 10 million more women to use modern methods of family planning by 2015, contributing to a wider global goal of 100 million new users, and to preventing more than 5 million unintended pregnancies.

Sierra Leone

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to visit Sierra Leone. [74672]

Mr O'Brien: I have no firm plans to visit Sierra Leone at present, having previously visited in both July 2010 and July 2011, but expect to do so before too long.

EDUCATION

Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost of converting a school to academy status in the latest period for which figures are available; [72102]

(2) how many applications from schools his Department has received to convert to academy status since May 2010; [72105]

(3) how many academy conversions he expects to complete by the end of 2011; [72106]

(4) which teams within his Department are responsible for supporting schools to convert to academy status; [72146]

(5) how many civil servants his Department employs for the purposes of dealing with the conversion of schools to academy status; [72147]

(6) what his Department's budget is to support the conversion of schools to academy status for 2011-12; [72104]

(7) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on extending the budget for school academy conversions; [72103]

(8) whether resources have been transferred from other areas of his Department's budget for the purposes of funding academy conversions; [72148]

(9) whether Mr Dominic Cummings was involved in discussions concerning his Department's budget following his appointment as special adviser. [72149]

Mr Gibb: The Academies Act 2010 financial impact assessment identified that conversion costs could be around £75,000-80,000, based on experience of the legal and associated costs of opening sponsored academies. Actual conversion costs fluctuate between schools depending on individual circumstances. Schools may apply to the Department to receive a one-off £25,000 conversion support grant to contribute towards these costs. Additional grants are also available for private finance initiative schools.

From May 2010 until 1 October 2011, 1,526 applications were received from schools wishing to convert to academy status. A list of all applications received (the "Publication List") is updated monthly and available on the Department for Education website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/map-of-open-academies-and-schools-submitting-applications

As at 1 October 2011, 1,031 Schools in England had converted to academy status. A further 495 schools had at this time applied to convert. It typically takes three to four months for a school to convert. As set out in the recent DFE consultation on the basis for the decision on the appropriate amount of academies funding transfer for 2011-12 and 2012-13, current estimates of the number of academy converters for the financial year 2011/12 are for between 1,550 and 2,113 schools to convert to become academies. It is important to point out that these are the best estimates which can be made at this time given the demand-led nature of the academies conversion programme. They should not therefore be regarded as a target but as the best assessment that can be made of how the expansion in the numbers of academies may develop.

Project Leads in the Academy Converter Division (within the Infrastructure and Funding Directorate) liaise directly with schools to support them in their conversion to academy status. There are currently 98 full-time equivalent officials working exclusively in the Department's Academy Converter Division. Of these staff, the majority are Project Leads who work directly with schools that are seeking information about becoming an academy or which have applied to convert. There are other staff in the Department who make a contribution to policy development and programme delivery related to schools converting to academy status as part of their wider role. Current staff numbers cost £2,443,000, The converter grant paid so far is £18,642,779, although this is expected to increase as more converting schools are given grants to convert.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne) and the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), have regular discussions on a range of education issues. These meetings have included discussions about different scenarios in relation to the number of schools wishing to convert to academy status. Like all organisations the Department regularly reviews its budgetary position to ensure that it has sufficient contingency to cover all potential commitments.

Special advisers discuss all areas of the Department's business with the Secretary of State for Education including the Department's budget.

Academies: Hertfordshire

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many primary schools have converted to academy status in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [71990]

Mr Gibb: As at 1 September there were three primary schools in Hertfordshire and 271 primary schools in England that had converted to academy status.

A full list of these schools is available on the Department for Education website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/b0069811/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development

Apprentices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many businesses in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector are offering apprenticeships to (i) 16 to 18 year olds and (ii) 19 to 24 year olds in 2011-12; how many such businesses there were in each category in each of the last five years; and how many such businesses in each such year had (A) between 0 and 9 employees, (B) 0 and 49 employees, (C) 0 and 249 employees and (D) 250 or more employees. [72511]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 10 October 2011]:* The National Employers Skills survey (NESS) shows a national estimate of the proportion of apprentices employed by employer size. These data are based on repeated surveys of up to 79,000 employers across all business sectors in England. Table 1 shows the latest information from the published 2009 National Employer Skills survey (NESS 2011 is expected to be published in 2012) on the proportion of apprentices employed by the size of establishment, expressed as a percentage of all apprenticeships.

Table 1: Percentage of apprentices employed by establishment size (NESS 2009)

	Number of employees in establishment						
	2-4	*5-24*	*25-99*	*100-199*	*200-499*	*500+*	*Total*
Percentage apprentices employed	13	34	23	8	11	10	100

Note:
Figure 8.4, p. 208 in
http://www.ukces.org.uk/assets/bispartners/ukces/docs/publications/evidence-report-2[illegible]ness-main-report-2009.pdf
accessed on 27 September 2011.

The percentage of apprentices employed by establishment size data (NESS 2009) is not available by age or by further breakdown of the number of employee bands. We do not directly measure the number of apprenticeship starts in the public and private sector but table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in the 'Health, Public Services and Care' Sector Subject Area for 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available. This may include some private sector health and care businesses and exclude some public sector apprenticeships covered in other sector subject areas but it is the most readily available information.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area in England, 2005/06 to 2009/10

Sector subject area	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	4,050	3,930	4,500	5,210	5,690
Arts, media and publishing	320	230	110	230	440
Business, administration and law	37,160	36,430	50,740	64,060	76,590
Construction, planning and the built Environment	21,670	27,520	27,830	29,220	25,210
Education and training	110	90	330	1,160	860
Engineering and manufacturing Technologies	30,870	34,660	43,100	36,990	37,860
Health, public services and care	22,480	23,590	31,070	34,890	44,150
Information and communication technology	7,500	6,430	8,010	8,820	12,570
Languages, literature and culture	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Leisure, travel and tourism	5,860	5,590	6,270	11,330	14,690
Preparation for life and work	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Retail and commercial enterprise	39,990	43,020	49,290	48,030	61,620
Science and mathematics	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Unknown	4,980	2,940	3,510	[1]—	[1]—
Total	175,000	184,400	224,800	239,900	279,700

[1] Indicates a base value of less than five.

Note:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten except for the total which is rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Crimes of Violence: Children

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will respond to the UN Global Survey on Violence against Children; and if he will place in the Library a copy of his response. [73734]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 190W, to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Toby Perkins).

Curriculum

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he gave to the gender balance of his Department's National Curriculum review panel. [73413]

Mr Gibb: The review of the National Curriculum in England is being advised by an Expert Panel made up of respected academics, as well as an Advisory Committee consisting mainly of successful head teachers and also including representation from higher education and employers. The terms of reference for the Expert Panel and Advisory Committee and pen pictures of their members can be found at:

www.education.gov.uk/nationalcurriculum

The Expert Panel and Advisory Committee were selected on the basis of their expertise and experience. Both groups include both men and women.

Curriculum: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has given consideration to adding texts to the National Curriculum in order to enhance the teaching of history relating to women. [73412]

Mr Gibb: One of the requirements of the current history curriculum is to develop in pupils an understanding of the diverse experiences and ideas, beliefs and attitudes of men, women and children in past societies and how these have shaped the world. The current programmes for history are a broad framework, so although there are no specific references to history relating to women in the range and content, they provide ample opportunities for schools to cover this topic.

We are currently undertaking a review of the National Curriculum. The review is considering which subjects beyond English, maths, science and physical education should in future be compulsory subjects within the National Curriculum, and at which key stages. We expect to announce our proposals early next year. For those subjects which we propose should remain part of the National Curriculum, we will work with subject experts and other interested parties during the course of next year to develop new Programmes Of Study for those subjects. There will be a full public consultation before final decisions are made.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education *(a)* to what extent and *(b)* in what way his Department's review of the National Curriculum will consider the inclusion of literary, mathematical or scientific works by women. [73414]

Mr Gibb: The Department's review of the National Curriculum will consider the inclusion of literary, mathematical or scientific works, whether written by women or men, in statutory Programmes of Study where these cover the essential knowledge that all children should acquire. These decisions will be based on consideration of advice received from subject experts, our analysis of international evidence and the responses to the Call for Evidence conducted earlier this year. There will be a full public consultation on our proposals before final decisions are taken.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73100]

Tim Loughton: The Department has introduced internal procedures to review all proposals to engage consultants. These procedures now incorporate the cross-Government consultancy review arrangements established by the Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG) in Cabinet Office for high-value cases.

Consultancy engagements have to meet criteria before approval is granted:

The requirement is of genuine operational necessity;

The work cannot be undertaken by existing in-house resources;

The commercial proposals represent real value for money.

Within the Department all consultancy proposals require at least a business case signed off at director level. For engagements in our arm's length bodies, sign-off is at chief executive level. Separate approval processes are then required depending on the value and requirement of the engagement. All cases are reviewed within Finance and Commercial Group at deputy director and director levels. Engagements that are intended to last for over nine months require clearance from the Minister with responsibility for efficiency and value for money, my noble Friend, Lord Hill of Oareford, and the Cabinet Office. Consultancy contracts of over £20,000 also require approval by Lord Hill and if they involve procurement- related consultancy, they also require Cabinet Office approval.

Existing consultancy contracts of £20,000 and above are reviewed every three months from the date of contract commencement to ensure they still meet the criteria. Contracts are reviewed at three and six months within the Department, and at nine months they are referred to Cabinet Office for approval to continue.

The Department is subject to EU and UK Procurement regulations and the strategy of centralising procurement of common goods and services for central Government Departments. As such the Department encourages use of existing framework agreements wherever possible, including those established by the Government Procurement Service. Where requirements are not met by an existing framework, business units are advised that, following the fundamental principles of EU legislation, and Government purchasing policy, contracts should be awarded following competitive tendering.

Up to February 2011, Departments had saved £350 million on consultancy engagements—a reduction of 55%.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether his Department conducted a public procurement process for the provision of services to free schools from July 2011; [71368]

(2) when his Department made its first payment to the New Schools Network; [71369]

(3) whether the New Schools Network has been promoted at any events funded by his Department. [71370]

Mr Gibb: The first payment to the New Schools Network (NSN) was made in December 2010 and the grant funding arrangement lasted until 31 July 2011. The agreement with NSN was extended without additional funding by two months to 30 September 2010 after NSN offered to work for free. On 5 September the Department launched an open competitive process for an organisation to provide future support to groups interested in submitting an application to open a free school.

The Department does not hold records centrally about the promotion of NSN at DFE-funded events although the Department does advise potential applicants of the support that NSN can provide.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date he plans to publish his decision on applications for free schools wishing to open in 2012. [72099]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 October 2011]:* The Department has now completed the process of assessing the applications it has received to establish free schools in 2012. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education made an oral statement to the House on 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 62-64, about those that are approved to move to the next stage of development.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of applications to set up a free school have been rejected; and for what reasons in each case. [72272]

Mr Gibb: During the application round for Free Schools opening in 2011 approximately 90% of the 323 applications were rejected. In the application round for free schools opening in 2012, the outcome of which was announced on 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 62-64, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education, approximately 75% of the 281 applications are not being taken forward. The Department does not publish details of unsuccessful applications.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many meetings on free schools *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department have had with (i) the New Schools Network and (ii) other organisations; [72316]

(2) how many organisations have received funding from his Department to provide advice on the establishment of free schools; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [72317]

Mr Gibb: Ministers and special advisers have met NSN to discuss free schools on several occasions since May 2010; officials have had frequent meetings. Providing information on the exact number, and numbers of meetings about free schools with other organisations, could be done only at disproportionate cost.

On 18 June 2010 the Department agreed to enter into a £500,000 grant agreement with the New Schools Network to provide pre-application advice and support to groups and individuals interested in opening a free school. No other organisations have received funding from the Department to provide similar support.

Further Education: Finance

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to commence a new round of funding for further education college capital projects. [72966]

Mr Hayes: I announced a new two year Further Education Capital Investment Programme in the consultation document entitled 'New Challenges, New Chances: Next Steps in Implementing the Further Education Reform Programme', which was published in August 2011. This programme was launched in September 2011 and details of the programme are available on the Skills Funding Agency's website.

All further education colleges are eligible to apply for a £100,000 Renewal Grant subject to them making an additional contribution of twice the allocated amount to an appropriate project. In addition, all eligible colleges have the opportunity to bid through a challenge process for further 'Enhanced Renewal Grant' funding which could provide up to £2,000,000 for an individual project subject to the usual 2:1 funding criteria.

Offences Against Children

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will introduce measures to improve the operation of local safeguarding children boards to take account of the conclusions of the 'Out of Mind, Out of Sight' report from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. [74181]

Tim Loughton: Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have a key role in tackling child sexual exploitation. We know that there are examples of good practice in identifying this abuse and responding to it; but not enough LSCBs are tackling the problem proactively. The action plan which the Government are committed to publishing in the autumn will set out a range of actions for tackling child sexual exploitation, including ones to help LSCBs improve their performance. The action plan will take account of the conclusions of the 'Out of Mind, Out of Sight' report and of other related reports and research findings.

Schools: Bullying

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reduce bullying in schools. [73866]

Mr Gibb: The Government made a clear commitment to tackle bullying—particularly prejudice-based bullying—in the Schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching'.

We are supporting school staff to proactively identify the motivation of poor behaviour and bullying that are particular to their school, and to ensure that they have clear strategies in place to tackle them. We have published clearer anti-bullying advice to help schools to develop an effective approach. We have updated statutory guidance to school governors, clarifying their legal powers to tackle bullying both in and outside school; and legislation currently before the House will strengthen the authority of teachers to enforce discipline and promote good behaviour. The new Ofsted inspections framework, which comes into force in January next year, will place a sharper focus on behaviour and bullying, increasing schools' accountability in this area.

Schools: Finance

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made on identifying annual expenditure on insurance across the school estate; and if he will make a statement. [71875]

Tim Loughton: The Department gathers spend information from schools on an annual basis in the form of consistent financial reporting (CFR).

CFR standardises, simplifies and streamlines the reporting of school finances in all local authority (LA) maintained schools in England.

Schools insurance is reported under three CRF codes: Supply Teacher insurance; Staff related insurance and Other insurance premiums.

For the reporting period 2009/10, which is the latest period that the figures are available for, the following annual values were reported:

Supply Teacher insurance—£151,485,424.20

Includes

Premiums paid to insurers for supply teacher cover

Excludes

Premiums paid to insurers for cover other than for teacher absence

Vehicle insurance

Accident and public liability insurance for persons not employed directly by the school

School trip insurance

Premises related insurance

Staff related insurance—£47,212,124.85

Includes

Cover for non-teaching staff absence.

Employee related insurance for accident and liability, assault, fidelity guarantee, libel and slander

Excludes

Insurance premiums paid to cover teaching absence for staff directly employed by the school

Premises related insurance

Vehicle insurance

Accident and Public liability insurance for persons not employed directly by the school

School trip insurance

Other insurance premiums—£159,613,986.78

Includes

Premises related insurance

Vehicle insurance

Accident and public liability insurance for persons not employed directly by the school

School trip insurance

Excludes

Insurance for supply teacher cover

Staff insurance cover

Science: GCSE

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of pupils who achieved grades A to C in *(a)* biology, *(b)* physics and *(c)* chemistry at GCSE in 2011 who are planning to study the subjects at AS Level. [71964]

Mr Gibb: Learner level information on attainment in 2011 is not yet available. However, we can estimate, using historical data for the cohort who completed Key Stage 4 in 2007/08, the proportion who went on to enter AS or A-levels in 2008/09 or 2009/10[1]. These figures are shown in the following tables.

Biology

		Progression to AS/A-level—cumulative	
Attainment at Key Stage 4	*Number at KS4*	*AS/A-level by year 12 (percentage)*	*AS/A-level by year 13 (percentage)*
Biology A*-C	68,600	25	39
Additional Science A*-C	240,400	13	17
Core Science A*-C	67,100	1	2

Physics

		Progression to AS/A-level—cumulative	
Attainment at Key Stage 4	*Number at KS4*	*AS/A-level by year 12 (percentage)*	*AS/A-level by year 13 (percentage)*
Physics A*-C	64,000	19	28
Additional Science A*-C	240,500	6	8
Core Science A*-C	67,300	0	1

Chemistry

		Progression to AS/A-level—cumulative	
Attainment at Key Stage 4	*Number at KS4*	*AS/A-level by year 12 (percentage)*	*AS/A-level by year 13 (percentage)*
Chemistry A*-C	65,100	25	37
Additional Science A*-C	240,500	9	11
Core Science A*-C	67,300	0	1

[1] Two years data on AS-level and A-level entries have been used to estimate continuation to AS-level, because in many cases AS-levels are entered in year 12, but only "cashed in", ie the award made by the awarding body, in year 13.

Teachers: Ex-servicemen

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many former service personnel have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been enrolled in the Troops to Teachers programme. [74054]

Mr Gibb: We are developing a Troops to Teachers programme, which will provide a number of routes for service leavers who want to use their skills in schools, either through teaching, school leadership or providing specialist support to groups of pupils. We will announce further details of the Troops to Teachers programme later this year.

The Troops to Teachers programme will encompass the Military to Mentors programme, which was launched last year. The Military to Mentors programme employs ex-services personnel to work with some of our most vulnerable young people, in schools. There are 10 participants on the current programme, 20 more confirmed to start the next programme and a further 20 at the application stage.

Teachers: Nottinghamshire

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teaching staff there are per child in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [73529]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows the ratio of pupils to teachers in local authority maintained/nursery, primary and secondary schools combined in November 2010.

Overall pupil: teacher ratios in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, year: November 2010[1], coverage: Ashfield parliamentary constituency, Nottinghamshire local authority and England

	Ashfield[2]	*Nottinghamshire[3]*	*England[3]*
PTR[2]	17.9	17.6	17.3

[1] November 2010 figures are calculated using the most current figures e.g. January 2011 pupil numbers and November 2010 teacher numbers.
[2] This figure excludes any teachers directly employed by the local authority who mainly work in schools within the constituency and is therefore not truly comparable with the LA and England figures.
[3] The overall PTRs are based on the total FTE number of sole and dual-registered pupils on roll in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools and the FTE of all teachers in these schools (including: centrally-employed; occasional teachers; those on employment-based routes to QTS, others without QTS, those on paid absence and any replacements).
Source:
School Workforce Census and School Census.

Teachers: Pensions

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to teachers' pension arrangements on the ability of teachers to move between the state and independent sectors. [73856]

Mr Gibb: The Government have agreed that the recommendations from the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission (IPSPC), chaired by Lord Hutton of Furness, will form the basis for consultation on public sector pension reforms. Proposals are under discussion and the question of mobility between the state and independent sectors will be considered as a key element in concluding how the recommendations will be implemented.

Video Games: Industry

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the Livingstone Hope Skills review. [73464]

Mr Gibb: The report of the Livingstone Hope Skills review on the skills shortage faced by the video games and visual industries was launched in February 2011. Officials from the Department for Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport discussed the recommendations emerging from the review before the launch of the report, and have since met to discuss the Government's response.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme: Barking

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) in what *(a)* industries and *(b)* occupations people have been placed on the Work programme in Barking constituency to date; [74139]

(2) how many people on the Work programme in Barking constituency were placed in employment in *(a)* June, *(b)* July and *(c)* August 2011; [74140]

(3) how many people in Barking constituency have been referred to A4e to participate in the Work programme; [74144]

(4) how many people in Barking constituency have been referred to CDG to participate in the Work programme; [74154]

(5) how many people in Barking constituency have been referred to SEETEC to participate in the Work programme. [74155]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme was launched in June 2011, to deliver sustained employment that can change people's lives; providers have longer than ever before to make a difference.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity and we are aiming to publish referrals and attachments from spring 2012 and job outcomes from autumn 2012.

The Department's publication strategy for Work programme statistics was placed in the House of Commons Library and is also available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp

Atos Healthcare

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the way that Atos Healthcare carry out their assessments on behalf of his Department; and what plans he has for improvements in the way that Atos Healthcare undertake such assessments. [74042]

Chris Grayling: It is important the work capability assessment (WCA) is subject to an ongoing process of review, evaluation and refinement. This includes continuing to listen to the concerns of both representative groups and individuals and we welcome the recent Work and Pensions Select Committee Report which acknowledged improvements to the WCA resulting from the review process.

As part of this continuous improvement Professor Harrington published his first Independent Review of the WCA in November 2010. He concluded that the principles of the assessment are right, but that the system contains some flaws that risk undermining its effectiveness. We fully endorse his review and have sought to implement all of its recommendations.

Improvements include the introduction of mental, cognitive and intellectual 'champions' into assessment centres to improve the assessment of these functions. Atos has additionally published a customer charter which is available in their medical assessment centres, ensuring that individuals understand the level of service they may reasonably expect from the organisation.

We will continue to review and refine the WCA to ensure that it is effective; fair for all claimants and as a result fair for the taxpayer. I am delighted therefore that Professor Harrington has agreed to take on the second Independent Review of the WCA. We look forward to receiving his further recommendations by the end of the year.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department's contract with Atos to carry out assessments for employment and support allowance will expire. [73755]

Chris Grayling: The Department's contract with Atos to carry out assessments for employment and support allowance will expire on 31 August 2015.

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to provide information to the public on the *(a)* risk and *(b)* prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning. [73708]

Chris Grayling: The Government takes awareness of carbon monoxide issues very seriously, and provides information for the public on websites and in publications. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advice to consumers is to always use a Gas Safe registered engineer for all gas work in their home, and to ensure that any gas appliances are regularly serviced and maintained. Although not a substitute for the correct installation or maintenance of an appliance, HSE also strongly recommends the use of audible carbon monoxide alarms. Additionally, HSE provides a free gas safety advice line, which gas consumers, tenants and landlords can contact for advice and information.

The Gas Safe Register, the statutory registration scheme for gas engineers, was launched in April 2009. The Register has undertaken significant campaigns, including national TV advertising, coverage on a wide variety of consumer programmes and national and regional press and radio, along with regional and community events to raise public awareness of gas safety risks. Recent research by the Gas Safe Register has shown that 81% of consumers are aware of gas safety risks and the Gas Safe Register.

HSE and Gas Safe Register continues to work to raise awareness of the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning, particularly with vulnerable groups such as the elderly and students. Gas Safe Register ran its first Gas Safety Week in September 2011 and reached millions of consumers with key gas safety messages.

Child Support Agency

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the Child Support Agency has not provided information within the timescale requested to the *(a)* Independent Case Examiner and *(b)* Parliamentary Ombudsman in each of the last three years. [73940]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many times the Child Support Agency has not provided information within the timescale requested to the (a) Independent Case Examiner and (b) Parliamentary Ombudsman in each of the last three years. [73940]

The Commission has a service level agreement with the Independent Case Examiner (ICE) with agreed timescales for provision of information to ICE. The tables below set out performance against these service level agreements for the previous three years.

CSA service level agreement activity, 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

	Agreed timescale (days)	Number provided to ICE	Number provided later than SLA	Percentage provided later than SLA (%)
Resolution plans	10	550	53	10
Record of evidence	40	575	106	18
Draft reports	10	411	88	21

CSA service level agreement activity, 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

	Agreed timescale (days)	Number provided to ICE	Number provided later than SLA	Percentage provided later than SLA (%)
Resolution plans	10	674	240	36
Record of evidence	28	609	371	61
Draft reports	10	341	117	34

CSA service level agreement activity, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

	Agreed timescale (days)	Number provided to ICE	Number provided later than SLA	Percentage provided later than SLA (%)
Resolution plans	10	728	225	31
Record of evidence	28	386	288	75
Draft reports	10	239	68	28

The Commission does not have a formal Service Level Agreement with the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. The vast majority of requests for information from her office have individual timescales attached so the requested information would only be available at disproportionate cost.

Whilst we have no formal agreement with the Ombudsman, the Commission has procedures in place to ensure requests for information are responded to in a timely manner.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Construction: Safety

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made an assessment of levels of awareness and understanding of the Health and Safety Executive's construction, design and management guidance amongst public sector bodies that procure construction projects. [75322]

Chris Grayling: In 2009 the Health and Safety Executive carried out a study examining health and safety issues in public sector construction procurement. The study was published in May 2011 in a research report "Health and safety in public sector construction procurement" and this is available on their website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr848.htm

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to implement the recommendation of his Department's report, entitled "One Death is too Many: inquiry into the Underlying Causes of Construction Fatal Accidents", to apply Office of Government Commerce Common Minimum Standards throughout publicly funded construction projects, including local authorities. [75342]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published research into the health and safety considerations in procurement of construction work by public sector clients. This research has been shared with the Cabinet Office who are currently updating the Common Minimum Standards for the Built Environment as set out in the Cabinet Office document "Government Construction Strategy" published in May 2011.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74327]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions became a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code in March 2009 and set a target to pay 90% of correct invoices within 10 days of receipt. This target applies to all invoices paid by the Department and its agencies which are covered by a single finance system. The target has been met consistently since the signing of the Code.

The proportion of all supplier payments made within 10 days of receipt of an invoice for the months requested are:

July

Invoices received—70,248

Invoices paid within 10 Days—68,335

Percentage paid within 10 Days—97%

August

Invoices received—59,052

Invoices paid within 10 Days—57,503

Percentage paid within 10 Days—97%

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73661]

Chris Grayling: There was no DWP expenditure on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73184]

Chris Grayling: Procurement activity in the Department for Work and Pensions is covered by a corporate commercial strategy under which costs are monitored each financial year. The cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for the Department and its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 were:

Financial year	*Costs (£ million)*
2011-12	[1]44
2010-11	49.12
2009-10	49.65
2008-09	51.63

[1] Estimate

The Department is committed to delivering corporate efficiencies in order to deliver value for money for the taxpayer and will continue to review progress in achieving this.

The Department has not engaged, and does not plan to engage, any consultants to undertake procurements on its behalf in 2011-12.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has budgeted for penalties for the early termination of contracts under *(a)* the flexible new deal and *(b)* pathways to work. [75421]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) Negotiations to agree settlements in closing flexible new deal phase 1 contracts are currently in train and are commercial in confidence. It would therefore be prejudicial to DWP's remaining active negotiations to release this information at this time

(b) Pathways to work contracts ended on 31 March 2010, therefore, no penalty costs for early termination were budgeted for or incurred.

Universal Credit

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely level of redundancies in the Housing Benefit Service after the universal credit becomes fully operational. [73711]

Steve Webb: Universal credit is a national benefit. It will be delivered largely through an online service, with its core administration most efficiently run by a centralised system. As DWP start to build the organisation to deliver universal credit, and we have yet to settle on the precise detail, and select the right people with the right capability it is likely some of those skills will exist within local authorities. We will therefore always look to include local authority staff in our thinking.

In relation to the longer term delivery of universal credit, we will continue to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs and local authorities to test new ways of working and impact ongoing Delivery Model design at both a national and local level. Our aim is to work collaboratively to enable the decision making process and deliver optimal value. This includes the decision making around any redundancies, for which we have a small amount in our business case (whether they are in DWP, HMRC or local authorities). However, we do not expect there to be significant numbers of redundancies, if any at all, given the time available to us to plan and complete the transition to universal credit by 2017. I will be able to say more on the transition plan and the associated costs once we have collated and analysed the responses from the recent survey of local authorities. I expect to be able to do this by the end of the year.

Disability Premium

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households with children receive the *(a)* severe disability premium, enhanced disability premium and support component of employment and support allowance, *(b)* severe disability premium and enhanced disability premium but not the support component of employment and support allowance, *(c)* severe disability premium and the support component of employment and support allowance but not the enhanced disability premium and *(d)* severe disability premium but not the enhanced disability premium or the support component of employment and support allowance. [73319]

Chris Grayling: The information as requested is not available.

Information on employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants also entitled to disability premiums is recorded on the Department's administrative systems, but is not included in datasets underpinning routine publication of benefit statistics. To access the original datasets and carry out the necessary quality assurance would incur disproportionate cost.

Information on ESA claimants, including the phase of the claim, can be found on the Department's website at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/esa/tabtool_esa.html

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of employment and support allowance in each month since May 2010. [75250]

Chris Grayling: The information is compiled on a quarterly basis and is given in the following table.

Employment and support allowance recipients, each quarter since May 2010—Great Britain

	Recipients
May 2010	461,610
August 2010	498,290
November 2010	523,650
February 2011	564,910

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. This analysis does not include credits only cases, i.e. those not receiving payment.
4. Figures are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/esa/tabtool_esa.html

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Employment and Support Allowance: Cancer

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to allow students who have to take time off university for cancer treatment to access employment and support allowance without withdrawing from their course. [73332]

Chris Grayling: Students are not normally eligible for social security benefits as they should be supported by the higher education system. However, there are exceptions which enable disabled students receiving disability living allowance to receive employment and support allowance. The Government have no plans for allowing exceptions to these rules in respect of students.

When a student becomes too ill to continue their course and so abandons it, they are no longer treated as a student and may apply for employment and support allowance immediately.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what evidence he took into account when making the decision to limit employment and support allowance payments to one year for cancer patients; [74503]

(2) what discussions he had with representatives of Macmillan Cancer Care prior to his decision to limit employment and support allowance payments to one year for cancer patients; and if he will publish the minutes of these meetings. [74504]

Chris Grayling: As part of his spending review announcement last October my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer set out the intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group. The change requires primary legislation and is included in the Welfare Reform Bill which is currently being considered by Parliament.

Ministers have had a number of discussions with Macmillan Cancer Support since the spending review announcement, as we are determined that the benefits system should support people who are diagnosed with cancer in the most sensitive, fair and appropriate way. The Department has no interest in making it harder for those who cannot work to claim benefits and is committed to an ongoing process of review and improvement.

As part of his second Independent Review, Professor Malcolm Harrington asked Macmillan to look in detail at how the work capability assessment assesses people with cancer and to provide to him with any recommendations for further improvements.

The Department recently received these recommendations from Professor Harrington and is considering them carefully to understand whether they will improve the assessment further for individuals with cancer. The Department will come forward with any proposals shortly.

Employment Schemes: Transport

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that the Work programme will support jobseekers entering employment with the costs of travelling to work where they have accepted employment outside their immediate area because no employment matching their skills and expertise was available within their immediate area. [74678]

Chris Grayling: The underlying principles of the Work programme give providers the flexibility to design an innovative and personalised approach to help an individual into sustained employment. In line with this approach, DWP do not specify that Work programme providers have to support participants with costs for travelling to work. However, the provider could choose to support these costs if they think it is needed to sustain employment. The provider should determine what advice and support is required for a participant returning to employment following consultation with the individual.

Employment: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* North West Durham constituency were placed in employment through the Future Jobs Fund between October 2009 and April 2011. [74615]

Chris Grayling: The most recent Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 12 October 2011. Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which covers the period from October 2009 to the end of March 2011. There were no further starts after March 2011.

There have been 440 people placed in temporary employment via the Future Jobs Fund within the combined City of Durham, North Durham and North West Durham parliamentary constituencies of which 210 people solely within the North West Durham parliamentary constituency.

Further breakdowns of this information can be found in the following table;

Table 1: Number of people within Durham that have started a Future Jobs Fund placement since October 2009

	Future Jobs Fund placements	
	Combined City of Durham, North Durham and North West Durham parliamentary constituencies	*North West Durham parliamentary constituency*
October 2009	—	—
November 2009	—	—
December 2009	—	—
January 2010	10	—
February 2010	20	10
March 2010	70	40
April 2010	20	10
May 2010	10	10
June 2010	40	20
July 2010	40	20
August 2010	20	10
September 2010	30	10
October 2010	50	30
November 2010	40	10
December 2010	20	10
January 2011	50	10
February 2011	10	10
March 2011	10	10
Total	440	210

Notes:

1. Data Source—DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database October 2011.
2. Due to data protection protocols, figures are rounded to the nearest 10 to avoid disclosure. Due to rounding, totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Labour Market Interventions Strategy Division

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73714]

Chris Grayling: There were no Government Procurement Card transactions for the Department for Work and Pensions involving cash transactions from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10.

It is not possible to withdraw cash using Government Procurement Cards as that particular Merchant Category Code is blocked by JP Morgan on all Department for Work and Pensions Government Procurement Cards.

Department for Work and Pensions policy states:

> "There is NO cash withdrawal facility (via ATM or via "Cash back") with any type of GPC account."

Housing Benefit: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the housing benefit cap on women living in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency. [72741]

Steve Webb: The caps do not have an impact on Birmingham as the prevailing local housing allowance rates are below: £250 for the shared and one-bedroom rates; £290 for the two-bedroom rate; £340 for the three-bedroom rate; and £400 for the four-bedroom rate.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Education

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the situation faced by individuals who have had jobseeker's support withdrawn as a result of enrolling on a college course in order to improve their employability. [74184]

Chris Grayling: The Government recognise the importance that education and skills can play in helping people find work. Jobseekers can undertake part-time education or training at any point in their claim and continue to receive jobseeker's allowance as long as they continue to meet the basic conditions of entitlement.

Nevertheless, jobseeker's allowance is primarily intended as a safety net for people who are unemployed and searching for work. While certain social security entitlements continue to be available to students in vulnerable groups—such as disabled students and students who are responsible for a child of qualifying age—the vast majority of full-time students are not entitled to benefits as a means of supporting themselves while studying. Financial support for students who wish to study full-time is instead generally through the grants and loans available through the further education system.

Evidence from employment programmes suggests that jobseekers are better served by support that mixes ongoing job-search with integrated work-related training. Skills provision also works best when it meets the needs of both employers and those seeking employment.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who have stopped receiving jobseekers allowance in each month of the last two years as a result of taking up a higher education course in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [74186]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. Claimants leaving jobseeker's allowance are not required to inform the Department of their destinations and hence the information that is collected is incomplete.

Information is held on the number of jobseeker's allowance recipients who are referred to full-time training by a Jobcentre Plus adviser and subsequently moved onto a training allowance for the duration of this training. This information is shown in the following table:

Training allowance starts per month, jobseeker's allowance claimants

	England	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*All*
2009				
June	13,655	570	934	15,159
July	7,822	329	597	8,748
August	7,609	339	714	8,662
September	8,463	286	530	9,279
October	7,602	262	528	8,392
November	9,765	323	743	10,831
December	4,761	152	311	5,224
2010				
January	8,445	271	646	9,362
February	10,790	333	851	11,974
March	13,863	503	1,153	15,519
April	10,858	462	782	12,102
May	12,569	619	1,107	14,295
June	14,120	758	989	15,867
July	11,850	730	928	13,508
August	13,636	699	1,307	15,642
September	13,634	976	1,127	15,737
October	14,965	1,001	1,228	17,194
November	21,834	1,600	1,697	25,131
December	10,687	354	552	11,593
2011				
January	21,486	1,472	1,473	24,431
February	17,733	1,121	1,555	20,409
March	14,614	1,097	1,594	17,305
April	10,326	805	1,342	12,473
May	14,808	726	1,879	17,413

Jobseeker's Allowance: Social Workers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many care workers claimed jobseeker's allowance in the last *(a)* month and *(b)* 12 months. [74737]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many care workers claimed jobseeker's allowance in the last (a) month, (b) 12 months. (74737)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1 shows the number of people resident in the UK, whose usual occupation was care assistants and care workers and who were in receipt of JSA in each month since September 2010 up to the latest available period, September 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of-persons[1] claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in the UK, whose usual occupation is care assistants and home carers[2]

	Number
September 2010	33,590
October 2010	33,265
November 2010	33,485
December 2010	33,965
January 2011	35,815
February 2011	37,485
March 2011	37,945
April 2011	38,790
May 2011	38,555
June 2011	38,800
July 2011	40,055
August 2011	40,840
September 2011	41,055

[1] Data rounded to nearest 5.

[2] SOC GROUP 61.15.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Mining: Safety

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likelihood of a conflict of interest arising from the Health and Safety Executive Mines and Quarries Unit having responsibility for both routine examinations of mines and accident investigation. [74455]

Chris Grayling: The primary responsibility for managing risks in mining rests with the mine owner. The regulator's role is to encourage and promote good standards of health and safety management and, where necessary, to secure compliance through enforcement.

HSE intervenes with the industry both through targeted proactive inspection and reactive investigation of incidents. It fully recognises the potential for a conflict of interest arising from an investigation into a serious incident where there has been previous engagement with the site in question.

It has well-established procedures for dealing with any such issues if they arise. HSE also works closely, with the police whenever there is a fatal incident and both regulators routinely review their approach as co-investigators in such cases.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the costs to business of musculoskeletal conditions in the work force. [71242]

Maria Miller: No assessment has been made by the Department for Work and Pensions of the costs to businesses of musculoskeletal conditions in the work force.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the potential saving to the public purse of reducing the number of people diagnosed with musculoskeletal conditions in receipt of *(a)* employment support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance. [71243]

Chris Grayling: The impact assessments and equality impact assessments which accompanied the Welfare Reform Bill set out the financial impacts on the Exchequer and individuals of the policies contained in the Bill. These are published at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare%2Dreform/legislation%2Dand%2Dkey%2Ddocuments/welfare%2Dreform%2Dbill%2D2011/impact%2Dassessments%2Dand%2Dequality/

Entitlement to employment and support allowance is determined using the work capability assessment which is based on the premise that eligibility should not be based on the diagnosis of a specific condition, but rather on the way that the condition limits an individual's functional, capability.

Subject to parliamentary approval, we intend to replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. Exchequer savings from this measure are estimated to be around £325 million in 2013-14, rising to £1.25 billion by 2015-16. The assessment criteria for personal independence payment are still being designed, tested and consulted on. It is, therefore, not possible to estimate the impact of the reforms on particular groups.

Pension Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many couples who receive pension credit include one partner who is under the qualifying age for pension credit; and what the average monetary value per week of pension credit is to such couples. [75422]

Steve Webb: As at February 2011 there were 93,200 pension credit recipients who had a partner aged below 60. The average amount of pension credit in payment to these couples was £110.46.

Notes:

1. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available form the 100% data sources. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, the proportions derived should be applied to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.

2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. Average amounts [illegible] shown to two decimal places.

4. The data held is for age 60. The qualifying age for pension credit is increasing in line with the increase in women's state pension age. At February 2011 the qualifying age for pension credit was between 60 and four months and 60 and five months.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the potential savings arising from the provision in schedule 2, paragraph 64, of the Welfare Reform Bill to exclude couples from claiming pension credit if only one has reached the qualifying age. [75428]

Chris Grayling: The Government have decided that households where one member of a couple is over the qualifying age for pension credit and the other member is of working-age, will be entitled to claim universal credit.

The Government believe that all people of working age who can work should be expected to do so and that it is not right to continue the current position where pension credit can go to households which contain a person of working age without that person having to meet any work-related requirements. The universal credit approach provides financial support to such couples, whilst giving the working-age member of the couple access to support in finding work.

We have already acknowledged that it will be important not to undermine the stability and outcomes for existing pension credit customers, so the change will not apply to couples already in receipt of pension credit.

It is estimated that this policy could save up to £100 million over this spending review. Because of the interaction with other changes to support pensioners, which are still being developed, we are not yet able to provide a firm estimate for a long run figure for savings.

Pensions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a pro rata system for pension payments;

what recent representations he has received on the issue; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [72225]

Steve Webb: Payment of state pension starts from the first full benefit week that follows the date a person reaches state pension age. State pension is paid in full weeks and this means that for most people there will be a gap between their birthday (when they reach pension age) and the day they receive their first payment of pension. The gap could be anything between one and six days, depending on the person's birthday and their benefit payday.

If a person's birthday happens to fall on the same day of the week as the first day of their benefit week, there is no gap between that birthday and the first day for which payment is due. For most other people, there will be. However, because we make pension payments in complete weeks, there are no part-week payments at the end of a claim either, when a full week's benefit is also paid and thus the system balances itself out.

There are administrative costs associated with making part-week payments and it is important that we continue to deliver the Department's service as cost-effectively as possible. If we made part-week payments at the commencement of a claim then logically we should seek to recover any days' overpayment at the end this would be at a cost to the Department.

The Government have no plans to change this arrangement at the present time. I do receive letters on this subject from time to time and my response has been along similar lines.

Social Security Benefits

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 251W, on social security benefits: EU nationals, how much was paid in benefits to *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK EU nationals in each of the last five years; and how many (i) UK and (ii) non-UK EU nationals claimed each benefit type in each year. [75404]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The UK's benefit payment systems do not record the nationality of people receiving benefits and therefore it is not possible to determine cost of benefits paid to EU nationals. I have, however, commissioned work to make information available on the nationality of benefit claimants.

Those who have worked in the UK and paid national insurance contributions may claim contributory benefits such as contribution-based jobseeker's allowance if they satisfy the contributions and other conditions for the benefit.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, the hon. Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb) of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 73WH, on benefits (EU nationals), when he expects to make available information on the nationality of benefit claimants; and what steps he has taken to make available information on the nationality of benefit claimants. [68775]

Chris Grayling: I have commissioned work to release information regarding the nationality of benefits claimants at the point of registration for a national insurance number. I am in discussion with Government colleagues, and hope to make preliminary statistics on the matter available shortly.

In the longer term, I have asked my officials to look into ways of capturing this information at source.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of the welfare budget is spent in Scotland. [73346]

Chris Grayling: In 2010-11 the Department for Work and Pensions spent around £14.7 billion on benefit expenditure and administration costs in Scotland, which is around 9.2 % of total expenditure.

Note:

Figures do not include expenditure on war pensions which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, or tax credit and child benefit expenditure which is the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs. The total DWP expenditure figure does not include welfare spending in Northern Ireland.

Source:

DWP Resource Accounts 2010/11 Table 6 and DWP statistical and accounting data.

Stress

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to implement the recommendation of Dame Carol Black's Review entitled Working for a healthier tomorrow. [72816]

Maria Miller: The Government have an active health, work and well-being programme which responds to the issues raised in Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age people. Overseen by the GB wide cross-Government Health, Work and Well-being Executive and advised by the Health, Work and Well-being National Stakeholder Council, the programme includes action to support individuals, employers and healthcare professionals and aims to:

create new perspectives on health and work

improve work and workplaces; and

support people to work.

Specific elements of the programme include:

locally designed proof of concept pilots of Fit for Work Services to help sickness absentees return to work more quickly;

occupational health advice services pilots for small businesses and General Medical Practitioners (GPs) to provide help with individual employee cases;

a "fit note", a revised medical certificate to help GPs switch the focus of their advice to what people can do rather than what they cannot;

a national education programme for GPs which aims to improve their knowledge, skills and confidence when dealing with health and work issues; and

a national network of Health Work and Well-being Co-ordinators to stimulate action on health, work and well-being issues in their area and offer advice and support to small businesses.

All measures and pilots will be fully evaluated.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters he has received on funding for civil sector organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73997]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Universal Credit

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of transferring to the universal credit system. [72956]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit is expected to be introduced in October 2013, and individuals will be migrated to universal credit over the subsequent four years. Costs and benefits over this transition period will depend upon the precise nature of the migration strategy. We are actively working on this at present, and decisions will be made at the most appropriate juncture.

The impact assessment updated in September 2011 sets out an assessment of the costs and benefits once universal credit has been fully implemented and transitional protection has been exhausted.

Overall, it is estimated that benefit expenditure will be around £2 billion higher once universal credit is fully implemented. This will be a cost to the Exchequer and the taxpayer of around £4 billion as a result of entitlement changes and increased take-up. Offsetting this it is estimated that there will be savings of around £2 billion due to reduced fraud, error and overpayments together with changes to the earnings disregards that currently exist in tax credits. In the longer term reduced complexity has the potential to lead to savings of more than £0.5 billion a year in administrative costs.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action will be taken in cases where a partner receiving universal credit on behalf of a couple are found to be *(a)* abusive of the other partner and *(b)* not supporting the other partner financially. [74284]

Chris Grayling: We expect that the vast majority of claimants will manage their universal credit payment by either electing to use a joint bank account or opting to have it paid directly to one member of the household.

There may, however, be exceptional cases that require alternative arrangements, and we are considering the circumstances for and details of these. For example, where there is proven abuse of the money by one partner, the Government already have and will retain the power to direct payments to the other partner, or there may be instances where it is more appropriate to divide the payment.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 3(d) of the revised version of Universal Credit Policy Briefing Note 2, 12 September 2011, in what situation all or part of the payment of income support, income-based jobseekers' allowance or other benefits can currently be redirected from the main claimant to their partner in couples; and in how many cases in each such situation this has occurred in the last five years. [74285]

Chris Grayling: Currently, couples cannot claim independently as single people. They can decide for themselves which partner claims benefit but the partner must agree to the claimant claiming for them. If, exceptionally, the couple cannot agree who should claim, the Department's decision maker can make the decision for them. This also applies to JSA Joint Claimants. Additionally, a split payment may be considered in certain cases, for example, that of domestic violence.

We do not hold information on split payment cases.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether money management advice will be provided to universal credit recipients moving from fortnightly to monthly payments; what form any such advice will take; and what the means of delivery will be of such advice. [74286]

Chris Grayling: The Department recognises that the move from fortnightly to monthly payments represents a change for many families and we are developing a package of support to ensure recipients of universal credit are able to manage this change effectively. This support is likely to include a mix of financial advice and interim and bridging loans.

Work Capability Assessment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have failed to attend a work capability assessment (WCA) appointment arranged by Atos Healthcare on behalf of his Department and subsequently had their benefit stopped in each *(a)* (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) Jobcentre Plus area and *(b)* for each benefit type since the inception of the WCA. [73232]

Chris Grayling: The information that is available will be placed in the Library.

Please note the Department holds information on the number of times a person has failed to attend a work capability assessment (WCA) appointment and the number of claims that have been closed before the assessment process is complete. However, there are a number of reasons that a claim may be closed, so we cannot be certain that a failure to attend a WCA is the direct reason for a claim being closed.

Therefore the tables provided show the number of claims that have been closed prior to the assessment being complete and of these the number that have, and have not, had a failure to attend a WCA recorded. This gives a broad indication only of the numbers of claims where a failure to attend may have led to the case being closed.

The information given relates to all new ESA claims started between October 2008 and November 2010 (the latest information available) where their claim was closed before their initial assessment was complete. Information on incapacity benefit claimants going through reassessment using the work capability assessment is not available.

The information is not available at parliamentary constituency level so local authority, area has been given as an alternative.

The data presented come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare. It is consistent with the official statistics publication on ESA and the WCA. The latest report was published in July 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department recognises fibromyalgia for the purposes of the work capability assessment. [74191]

Chris Grayling: DWP recognises fibromyalgia as a real and potentially significantly disabling condition. Where a clinical diagnosis of fibromyalgia has been made full account will be taken of its disabling effects as part of the work capability assessment.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department has issued to Atos-approved healthcare professionals in relation to fibromyalgia and the work capability assessment. [74190]

Chris Grayling: All healthcare professionals working for Atos Healthcare who carry out WCA assessments undertake a distance learning module on fibromyalgia within 12 months of joining the organisation. The distance learning module is approved by the chief medical adviser to the DWP. In addition, Atos healthcare professionals are required to undertake a programme of continuing medical education that is agreed with the Department. A module on chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia is included in the suite of CME topics available to the healthcare professionals.

Work Capability Assessment: Autism

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that adults with autism are accompanied to assessments by another person to ensure that assessments are fair. [74679]

Chris Grayling: We recognise that, for some individuals, attending a face-to-face assessment can be a stressful experience. Where there is sufficient evidence available, face-to-face assessments will not be carried out in order to determine benefit entitlement. In addition, you can be assured that health care professionals who carry out the face-to-face assessments are trained in dealing with customers with additional needs and that when people are asked to come for an assessment they are encouraged to bring a friend or relative with them.

Although we are still developing the delivery model for personal independence payment assessment, the same principles will apply. We recognise the importance of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders. For this reason we have made clear that individuals who are asked to attend a face-to-face consultation will be able to bring with them a relation, friend, carer or advocate if they would find it helpful.

Working Conditions: Temperature

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to set a maximum permitted working temperature. [73129]

Chris Grayling: In 2009, HSE commissioned an independent review into workplace temperatures, which drew on the wide range of non-Government research available. Following this review, conducted a survey about temperatures in workplaces, to which 2,933 completed responses were submitted. Evaluation of this and other data provided little evidence of significant numbers of illnesses, long or short-term, physical or psychological, caused or exacerbated by exposure to high temperatures. Given this, the Government have no plans to set a maximum working temperature.

Guidance currently available on the HSE website provides advice to business on how to deal with high temperatures.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 18 October 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Competition Commission: Enterprise Act 2002

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department retains powers to refer the newspaper distributor sector to the Competition Commission under the Enterprise Act 2002. [74085]

Mr Davey: Responsibility and powers to refer markets to the Competition Commission falls to the Office of Fair Trading and those sector regulators with concurrent competition powers. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills retains a power to refer markets under specific limited circumstances. Following the Machinery of Government changes announced in December 2010 responsibility for the media sector falls to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport.

Apprentices: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many creative apprenticeships are being undertaken by people resident in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency. [73054]

Mr Hayes: There were 10 apprenticeship starts on the Creative Apprenticeship Framework in Birmingham Ladywood parliamentary constituency in the 2009/10 academic year, the latest year for which final data are available.

The figure for apprenticeship starts has been rounded to the nearest 10. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

BAE Systems: Apprentices

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist apprentices affected by the redundancies announced by BAE Systems in finding new apprenticeships. [73163]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service has end-to-end responsibility for delivering apprenticeships in England. As part of this role, the National Apprenticeship Service work is with employers to try and find alternative placements for those individuals at risk of redundancy.

In this case, the National Apprenticeship Service and Skills Funding Agency are working together to provide BAE with site-level support across the country to manage any transition activities for individuals as necessary. BAE is sensitive to ensuring that apprenticeship schemes are protected and will look to ensure that existing apprenticeships can be completed. Where individuals are unable to complete their apprenticeships at the same site, the apprenticeship programme has sufficient flexibility within its contracts to allow those affected to move to other BAE sites to complete their training.

Business

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to increase the number of employee-owned businesses. [74749]

Mr Davey: In our drive for sustainable growth, this Department is working with Cabinet Office to promote employee ownership and social enterprise in both public and the private sectors as business forms that can support innovation, create jobs and deliver effective public services.

Business: Audit

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of audit committees in *(a)* highlighting risks within a business, *(b)* understanding the business model and the framework in which a business operates and *(c)* assessing the effectiveness of internal controls within a business. [74652]

Mr Davey: The Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) Corporate Governance Code sets out principles and best practice for good corporate governance and covers the role and responsibilities of audit committees. In September the FRC published a document setting out how they will achieve the aims set out in their paper 'Effective Company Stewardship' to extend the remit of audit committees.

In September the FRC also published a paper, 'Boards and Risk—A Summary of Discussions with Companies, Investors and Advisers', which considered the approach of companies and boards to risk and how that risk is managed. This was based on extensive discussion with market participants about how they operate. One of the key conclusions is that a company's ability to understand and articulate its business model leads naturally to a better understanding of risk and how it should be prioritised.

In September I published a consultation, 'The Future of Narrative Reporting', which describes a new, simpler and more user-friendly reporting framework for UK companies. This framework will enable companies to provide investors with a clear description of the company's strategy, business model and principal risks.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74355]

Mr Davey: From May 2010 onwards the Department has measured its prompt payment performance against a new cross-Government target of paying supplier invoices within five working days. Against this target, the Department paid 93.9% and 93.5% of supplier invoices in July and August 2010 respectively.

In comparison, the percentage of supplier invoices paid within 10 working days in the same period was 99.1% and 99.6%.

For information, the Department publishes its payment performance at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/procurement/prompt-payment/bis-payment-performance

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans to carry out in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74354]

Mr Davey: The Department plans the following refurbishment projects during the current financial year:

Lift Refurbishments; £1.1 million including VAT (estimated cost.)

External Decoration for 1 Victoria street which is currently out to tender.

Any decisions regarding projects for the next financial year will be decided at a later date.

Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many transport-related fines his Department and its predecessors have settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2007; and at what cost. [74357]

Mr Davey: The Department has not settled any transport-related fines on behalf of staff in any of the years since 2007. The Department's policy is that it will not settle any transport-related fines incurred by its staff.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full- and *(b)* part-time staff his Department employed in each year since 1997. [74595]

Mr Davey: In June 2009 the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) was merged with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to create the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Therefore we only have access to data from this date.

The following table shows how many full-time and part-time staff BIS employed in March 2010 and March 2011.

	31 March 2010	*31 March 2011*
Full-time	3,328	2,915
Part-time	400	369

Note:
Figures include UKTI

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73116]

Mr Davey: During the period 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011 the Department spent £92,369.82 (excluding VAT) on furniture.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75008]

Mr Davey: The following table shows the average working days lost (AWDL) in BIS by grade, during the period 1 April 2010-31 March 2011.

The data form part of the quarterly return to Cabinet Office on absence. Further information is available on the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

Grade	*AWDL*
Administrative Assistant	4.3
Administrative Officer	6.5
Executive Officer	5.7
Higher Executive Officer	3.5
Senior Executive Officer	2.5
Grade 7	2.4
Grade 6	2.0
SCS	0.6

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73221]

Mr Davey: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, special advisers and officials should conduct Government business.

English Language: Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made on arrangements for English for speakers of other languages funding for asylum seekers. [72186]

Mr Hayes: The eligibility for asylum seekers to access funding for skills training are described in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the Skills Funding Agency 2011/12 Learner Eligibility and Contribution Rules (Version 2.1, August 2011). This can be found at:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/LearnerEligibilityandContributionRules_2011_12_12Aug2011__June_revision_V2.1.pdf

From the 2011/12 academic year, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment, full Government funding is provided for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications delivered to unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group. Further education colleges and training organisations also have local discretion to provide fully subsidised courses for people on a wider range of benefits where the training is to help them enter employment. Learners are expected to share the costs of publicly funded ESOL courses with Government where full fee remission is not applicable. The Government will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace. This is to ensure publicly-funded training provision is focused on people whose lack of English is preventing them from finding work.

This Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government are working in partnership to develop new forms of support for individuals who need language skills to assist with integration and community cohesion. I will announce further details in due course.

The potential impact on adult learners participating in ESOL courses of the changes to eligibility criteria for fee remission set out in the Government's 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' strategy (November 2010) are described in an equality impact assessment, published by this Department on 18 July 2011. This can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/e/11-1045-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-equality-impact.pdf

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from further education colleges on English for speakers of other languages funding since 1 August 2011. [72187]

Mr Hayes: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), meets regularly with representatives from further education colleges to discuss a wide range of issues.

I have asked the Association of Colleges to advise me on developing, in consultation with further education colleges and providers, an effective methodology for targeting funds at settled communities in which language barriers inhibit individual opportunity and community cohesion. This is part of the partnership formed between this Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government, to develop new forms of support for individuals who need language skills to assist with integration and community cohesion. I will announce further details shortly.

Export Controls

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether an exporter who discovers after having completed required self-rating checks that the export goods are controlled is presumed by his Department to have knowingly exported controlled goods. [67506]

Mr Prisk: It is for the courts, not the Government, to determine whether, having considered all relevant evidence in the circumstances of a particular case, the conduct of an exporter constitutes "knowledge" for the purposes of export control legislation.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Export Credits Guarantee Department using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73497]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department does not have a Government Procurement Card.

Export Credits Guarantee: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on the UK of the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits. [74563]

Mr Davey: The proposal will have no impact on UK companies.

The proposal relates to official export credit agencies (ECAs), including the UK's Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD). It incorporates a recent version of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits into EU law to replace an earlier outdated version, and introduces new reporting and transparency requirements. ECGD has already aligned its policies and procedures with the version of the OECD arrangement now being adopted into EU law, and ECGD already publishes an annual report and accounts that provides comprehensive information on its operations.

The proposal was considered by the European Scrutiny Committee on 7 September as a document not raising questions of sufficient legal or political importance to warrant a substantive report to the House.

Further Education: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students were enrolled in further education in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency *(a)* on 1 September 2011 and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [74046]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the total number of learners participating in Government-funded further education throughout the academic year in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency from 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available. Information is not available for the number of enrolments on 1 September 2011.

Further education participation in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	Total
2005/06	18,650
2006/07	17,290
2007/08	16,720
2008/09[1]	18,290
2009/10[1]	16,730

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years due to the introduction of demand-led funding. More information on demand-led funding is available at:
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. These data include Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams.
4. Participation Is based on a count of learners undertaking learning on any day within a given academic year.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on further education and skills participation and achievement is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Further Education: Assessments

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England plan to take to ensure that universities continue to validate higher education qualifications delivered in further education colleges. [74167]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* It is for individual universities and colleges to make arrangements for the validation of courses, where they feel this is of mutual benefit and in line with their strategic priorities. However, the withdrawal of validation arrangements from colleges by partner universities can be destabilising and we are concerned by reports that some universities might be proposing to end their partnerships with further education colleges, in some cases without good reason.

The recent Higher Education White Paper has signalled the Government's commitment to opening up the higher education sector, including to further education colleges, to meet the changing needs of employers, individuals and communities. Under our reforms further education colleges that can attract students and wish to expand can benefit from the creation of a flexible margin of about 20,000 places in 2012/13 to support expansion by providers who combine good quality with value for money.

The White Paper also sets out our proposals to make it easier for further education colleges to access a wider range of external degrees, in addition to existing offerings from the Open University and the University of London, by allowing non-teaching bodies to apply for degree awarding powers, which will give more choice for colleges.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many universities plan to stop validating higher education qualifications in further education colleges in 2012-13; which courses will be affected; and if he will make a statement. [74168]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold information on which universities plan to stop validating courses in further education colleges. The withdrawal of validation arrangements from colleges by partner universities can be destabilising and we are concerned by reports that some universities might be proposing to end their partnerships with further education colleges, in some cases without good reason.

The recent Higher Education White Paper has signalled the Government's commitment to opening up the higher education sector, including to further education colleges, to meet the changing needs of employers, individuals and communities. Under our reforms further education colleges that can attract students and wish to expand can benefit from the creation of a flexible margin of about 20,000 places in 2012/13 to support expansion by providers who combine good quality with value for money.

The White Paper also sets out our proposals to make it easier for further education colleges to access a wider range of external degrees, in addition to existing offerings from the Open University and the University of London, by allowing non-teaching bodies to apply for degree awarding powers, which will give more choice for colleges.

Procurement

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Government procurement supports domestic *(a)* industry, *(b)* skills, *(c)* manufacturing capability and *(b)* supply chains. [75183]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), made a statement on 5 July that the Government are considering whether the UK is best applying the EU procurement rules and managing our procurements, to maintain competitive supply chains to meet our strategic needs, cost-effectively, in the long-term. Conclusions arising from this work will be published as part of the growth review, alongside the autumn statement.

Intellectual Property

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 716-7W, on copyright, what assessment he has made of the effects of competitiveness of the UK corporate tax regime on companies which develop and exploit intellectual property. [74547]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to creating the most competitive corporate tax system in the G20 and are undertaking a significant programme of reform. This includes reductions in the main rate of corporation tax which will benefit all companies including those which derive profits from copyright and other forms of intellectual property. The Government are also introducing the Patent Box which will improve the competitiveness of the UK for high-tech businesses, encouraging a wide range of sectors to invest in the UK.

Mature Students: Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to provide financial support for mature students following changes to the Adult Learning Grant. [73333]

Mr Hayes: Adults on further education and training courses, at colleges and training providers in receipt of Skills Funding Agency funding for the purposes of delivering adult skills provision, may seek financial support directly from their place of study.

The Adult Learning Grant (ALG) will become part of Discretionary Learner Support (DLS) from the start of the 2011/12 academic year. DLS is administered by colleges and training providers, and enables adult learners to seek assistance with child care, residential costs and general hardship needs.

Adults receiving ALG in 2010/11, who are continuing on their course in 2011/12, have been given a Notice of Entitlement to enable them to receive the grant for a final year.

Professional and Career Development Loans may also be applied for. They are similar to the Government-supported HE loan in that repayment is deferred while in learning.

Military Equipment

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of reports of the use of UK-supplied military equipment for the repression of protestors in Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [74302]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

The Government assessed information from our diplomatic posts in the region, including Bahrain, as well as media and non-governmental organisation reporting. We found no information to suggest that UK supplied equipment was used during protests in Bahrain earlier this year.

Multinational Companies: Company Accounts

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations his Department has made to the *(a)* G20 and *(b)* G77 on requiring the publication by multinational companies of accounts for each country in which they operate. [73688]

Mr Davey: The Government made clear, in the statement following the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting in February by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and in the Prime Minister's speech in Lagos in July, their support for EU action to improve transparency and reporting in the extractive industries to match the standards in the Dodd Frank legislation in the US.

Overseas Trade: Nigeria

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing to small and medium-sized enterprises developing trade links with Nigeria. [73930]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), a joint department of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, provides expert trade advice and practical support to UK-based companies wishing to access 96 overseas markets, including Nigeria.

Specific services include market research, details of overseas business opportunities, participation in trade missions and seminars, opportunities to exhibit at key trade events and access to major buyers, Governments and specific supply chains in overseas markets.

Patents: Applications

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to amend the regulatory regime in respect of patent applications for the purposes of encouraging *(a)* innovation, *(b)* product development and *(c)* employment creation. [74648]

Mr Davey: The law relating to patent applications has been amended and modernised in several ways during the last five to 10 years. These changes have implemented new international treaties, reduced or removed regulatory burdens on patent applicants, and helped with the enforcement of rights. More recently, this Government have introduced a number of new services for users of the patents system—most notably a fast-track procedure for international patent applications coming into the UK, and a free online service for viewing patent application documents. Furthermore, the Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property recently looked at the UK patents system in detail, with an emphasis on ensuring that the system supports growth and innovation—and made no recommendations relating to the law governing the patent application process. For these reasons, no further changes are planned at this time.

Post Offices

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland since May 2010. [75052]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member, and for a copy of her reply to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

However, it is worth noting that the Government have committed £1.34 billion of funding for the duration of the spending review to modernise the Post Office network and safeguard its future. Furthermore, there will be no programme of post office closures under this Government.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the urban population lived within one mile of a post office or sub-post office in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* the UK and *(e)* each constituency (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the most recent date for which information is available. [75053]

Mr Davey: The information requested relates to the access criteria that were introduced in 2007 after a national consultation. Post Office Ltd is required to meet and report on their compliance with the criteria by Government. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member providing information relating to the UK population at the date the access criteria was introduced, and for the most recent date for which information is available—and for a copy of her reply to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

It should be noted that this Government have maintained the same six strict access criteria, which include the requirement that 95% of the total urban population across the UK are to be within one mile of their nearest post office outlet. The access criteria are a national requirement and relate to the national network and are not applied, or measured, at a constituency level, or for Scotland, England or Wales.

However, the access criteria do contain a requirement for 95% of the population of every postcode district to be within six miles of their nearest Post Office outlet. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells to also provide this information.

Retail Trade: Competition

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had on the potential for legislating against the retail practice of loss leaders in respect of *(a)* electrical and *(b)* other goods. [73528]

Mr Davey: None. Competition matters relating to the pricing of goods and services fall to the Office of Fair Trading as the UK's independent competition authority.

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to prevent electrical dealers in the retail market from offering products for sale below cost. [74633]

Mr Davey: The Government do not have any plans to legislate in this area. Competition matters relating to pricing of goods and services fall to the Office of Fair Trading as the responsible independent competition authority.

Supermarkets: Competition

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to protect small local businesses from dominance by large chain supermarkets. [73324]

Mr Davey: Responsibility for enforcing competition law which prohibits certain anti-competitive agreements between firms and abuse of a dominant position in a market falls to the Office of Fair Trading as the responsible independent competition authority. The Government have brought legislation to Parliament to introduce a Groceries Code Adjudicator to enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice which ensures that large retailers must deal fairly and lawfully with their suppliers.

UK Trade and Investment: Welsh Assembly Government

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates UK Trade and Investment had discussions with the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Technology in the Welsh Assembly Government, in the last 12 months; and what the subject was of such discussions. [73957]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment has had no discussions with the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science since the Minister took up this new post in May.

Young People: Unemployment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people aged between 16 and 24 years old were not in education, employment or training in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough in the latest period for which figures are available. [72373]

Mr Hayes: The following table provides estimates of the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England, the west midlands and Dudley borough in 2010, the latest year available. This information is from the Annual Population Survey.

16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)

	Number	*Percentage*	*Confidence interval*
England	994,000	16.6	+/- 0.5 ppt
West midlands	119,000	18.7	+/- 1.5 ppt
Dudley	7,000	17.4	+/- 5.8 ppt

Base:
16 to 24-year-olds
Source:
2010 Annual Population Survey

It is important to note that estimates for local authorities are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals, which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a Confidence Interval of +/- 5.8 percentage points (ppt) means that the true value is between 5.8 ppt above the estimate and 5.8 ppt below the estimate.

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[1] Age used is academic age, which is defined as the respondents age as at the preceding 31 August.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 19 October 2011

WALES

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees her Department has employed in each year since 1997. [74476]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established on 1 July 1999 so we have data only from the financial year 1999-2000. Although total numbers are available for years 2000-11, as can be seen in the following table, data on the breakdown between full-time and part-time staff are available only for 2000, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Financial year ending	*Total staff numbers*	*Number of part-time staff*
2000	36	5
2001	44	n/a
2001	42	n/a
2003	48	n/a
2004	50	n/a
2005	54	n/a
2006	54	n/a
2007	57	n/a
2008	54	n/a
2009	56	2
2010	60	3
2011	56	4

n/a = not available

HOME DEPARTMENT

Bolivia: Drugs

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to encourage Bolivia to re-accede to the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. [74317]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* Bolivia withdrew from the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 on 1 July 2011. The Bolivian Government have announced that they will reapply to the convention in January 2012, with a reserve on the articles relating to the prohibition of coca leaf. The international community will then have 12 months to consider the reserve. The Government continue to engage with their EU and international partners, including the Bolivian Government, to formulate their position.

We remain committed to working with Bolivia to tackle the drugs trade, which causes harm to both our countries. A Memorandum of Understanding on Drugs Co-operation was signed in January 2011 to formalise this commitment.

Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* conducted on (i) the effects of different types of alcohol and (ii) the relationship between types of alcoholic products and anti-social behaviour. [73530]

James Brokenshire: The Government have not evaluated or conducted any research on the effects of different types of alcohol or the relationship between types of alcoholic products and antisocial behaviour.

It has however considered issues of price and alcohol in the report "Alcohol Pricing, and Criminal Harm" by Sheffield university, which was published in December 2008.

Counter-terrorism

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent terrorist acts sponsored by foreign states from taking place in the UK. [75060]

James Brokenshire: The Government's counter-terrorism strategy, Contest, published in July 2011, is designed to deal with the full range of terrorist threats to the UK and its interests, including any which may be sponsored by foreign states.

Crime: Football

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many orders under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 have been served on football supporters since its inception; how many such orders have been served in the last 12 months; whether any discussions have taken place with *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers, *(b)* the UK Football Policing Unit and *(c)* individual police forces on the appropriate use of section 27; what assessment she has made of whether section 27 is being used appropriately; and if she will make a statement. [74051]

James Brokenshire: The UK Football Policing Unit has collected data on orders issued under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, from local police football intelligence officers since the start of the 2009-10 football season. Police data submitted to the UK Football Policing Unit, from more than 3,000 football matches each season, show police issued section 27 notices to football supporters on 60 occasions during 2009-10 and 69 occasions during 2010-11. The number of individuals receiving notices during these incidents was not recorded, but totals around 500 each season, from a total attendance of approximately 37 million.

Discussions took place in 2009 between Home Office, the UK Football Policing Unit, the Association of Chief Police Officers and individual police forces on the use of section 27 powers during police football operations. These discussions focused on the need to ensure that any use is proportionate and appropriate, fully compliant with the Act, follows Home Office guidance and does not stereotype the behaviours of groups of football supporters. The decision to use section 27 is an operational matter for chief officers.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much members of her departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74946]

Damian Green: Information relating to the expenses of management board members is published quarterly and is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to her Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period her Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74983]

Damian Green: The Home Office processes its invoices through the Ministry of Justice Shared Service Centre. The devolved nature of the process within the Home Office means that a full end-to-end cost is difficult to identify but the costs to the Department for the Shared Service Centre can be identified.

The average cost in September 2011 based on the average cost for the previous 12 months was £4.62 per invoice. This was the cost of the Shared Service Centre teams directly involved with processing the invoice and their share of the overheads. It does not include Home Office costs internally such as requisitioners, buyers, approvers and receipters. This figure covers the core headquarters and the UK Border Agency only. Other Home Office agencies and non-departmental public bodies do not use the Shared Service Centre for their transactions.

The proportion of invoices paid electronically to date during 2011-12 is 97.03% and the proportion paid by cheque for the same period is 2.97% These are the latest financial data available.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if she will make a statement. [75146]

Damian Green: The Home Department has not awarded any contracts to third sector organisations since May 2010. The Home Office awards contracts through fair and open competition and in accordance with EU procurement directives.

The Department makes a number of grant payments direct to third sector organisations to assist in the implementation of policies. This is the main route to providing funding to the third sector as opposed to the contractual route.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if she will make a statement. [75147]

Damian Green: The Home Department and its executive agencies do not differentiate small and medium businesses. Since May 2010, 38 contracts have been awarded directly to small and medium-sized businesses and 196 to large businesses.

Details of the contracts are shown in the following table:

Business Type	*Month*	*Year*	*Number*	*Contract value (£)*
SME	October	2010	2	203,148
SME	November	2010	1	2,100,000
SME	December	2010	2	4,500,000
SME	January	2011	2	322,808
SME	February	2011	3	449,272
SME	March	2011	2	174,778
SME	April	2011	14	932,556
SME	May	2011	7	486,284
SME	June	2011	2	129,867
SME	July	2011	1	85,799
SME	August	2011	2	200,981
Large Businesses	June	2010	3	3,638,000
Large Businesses	July	2010	7	4,436,169
Large Businesses	August	2010	1	2,600,000
Large Businesses	September	2010	2	12,608
Large Businesses	October	2010	3	47,095,000
Large Businesses	November	2010	4	12,111,748
Large Businesses	December	2010	2	19,176,000
Large Businesses	January	2011	21	7,613,622
Large Businesses	February	2011	8	2,028,293
Large Businesses	March	2011	12	980,260
Large Businesses	April	2011	43	65,600,270
Large Businesses	May	2011	19	2,465,806
Large Businesses	June	2011	37	15,026,636
Large Businesses	July	2011	23	8,330,287
Large Businesses	August	2011	10	1,031,638
Large Businesses	September	2011	1	8,343,639

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU Procurement Directives based on value for money.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if she will make a statement. [75149]

Damian Green: The Home Department and its executive agencies began using Contract Finder in February 2011. Since then 37 contracts have been advertised.

The total value of contracts advertised on Contract Finder by the Home Department since February 2011 was £8,940,000.

The Home Department and its executive agencies do not differentiate small and medium businesses and therefore can only provide the details of contracts awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small and medium sized businesses (SME) in the table:

2011

	All contracts, number awarded	*All contracts, value (£)*	*(a) Third Sector, contracts, number awarded*	*(a) Third Sector contracts, value (£)*	*(b) SMEs contracts, number awarded*	*(b) SMEs contracts, value (£)*	*Proportion of contracts awarded to SMEs (%)*
February	4	1,200,000	0	0	1	160,000	25.0
March	3	100,000	0	0	0	0	
April	8	180,000	0	0	1	11,000	12.5
May	8	1,200,000	0	0	2	140,000	25.0
June	9	950,000	0	0	1	65,000	11.0
July	4	5,200,000	0	0	0	0	—
August	1	110,000	0	0	0	0	—
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	—

Details of the contracts provided to small business alone could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU Procurement Directives based on value for money.

Domestic Violence

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many recorded instances of domestic violence there were in England and Wales in 2010-11; [75445]

(2) how many people were convicted for offences of domestic violence in England and Wales in 2010-11. [75446]

Lynne Featherstone: The available information shows the number of reported domestic violence incidents, 2010-11, the figures are provisional and have not been verified by forces.

The Ministry of Justice's Court Proceedings Database (CPD) holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. The CPD does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided in the statutes under which prosecutions are brought. It is not possible to separately identify domestic violence offences from other offences of assault and violence against the person. Court proceedings data for 2011 are scheduled for publication in spring 2012.

Total number of reported domestic violence incidents, 2010-11[1, 2]

	Total number of reported domestic violence incidents
Avon and Somerset	15,648
Bedfordshire	9,137
Cambridgeshire	12,830
Cheshire	5,887
Cleveland	15,042
Cumbria	6,455
Derbyshire	18,363
Devon and Cornwall	24,972
Dorset	6,946
Durham	13,025
Dyfed-Powys	2,004
Essex	21,385
Gloucestershire	—
Greater Manchester	—
Gwent	443
Hampshire	24,009
Hertfordshire	11,675
Humberside	16,409
Kent	21,633
Lancashire	27,615
Leicestershire	12,492
Lincolnshire	7,232
London, City of	107
Merseyside	31,069
Metropolitan Police	121,314
Norfolk	8,546
Northamptonshire	—
Northumbria	28,167
North Wales	10,766
North Yorkshire	7,504
Nottinghamshire	4,670
South Wales	28,016
South Yorkshire	23,725
Staffordshire	16,193
Suffolk	7,556
Surrey	12,731
Sussex	17,384
Thames Valley	32,186
Warwickshire	7,855
West Mercia	16,431
West Midlands	41,494

Total number of reported domestic violence incidents, 2010-11[1, 2]

	Total number of reported domestic violence incidents
West Yorkshire	34,742
Wiltshire	4,584

[1] All data are provisional and unverified with forces.
[2] Data is not available for Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester and Northamptonshire.

Fly-tipping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested on suspicion of and *(b)* convicted for offences related to fly-tipping in each London borough since 1997. [74597]

James Brokenshire: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and criminal damage.

Further breakdowns of offences within these offence groups are not reported to the Home Office.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of people found guilty at all courts for 'fly-tipping' in England and Wales from 1997 to 2010 (latest available) are given in the following table.

The Ministry of Justice advises that court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for 'fly-tipping'[1] *and other related offences, England and Wales 1997 to 2010*[2,3]

	Number of persons found guilty
1997	250
1998	304
1999	324
2000	411
2001	446
2002	557
2003	624
2004	791
2005	931
2006	1,102
2007	1,218
2008	1,193
2009	1,184
2010	1,270

[1] Covers offences under sections 33(1), 33(6),33(8),33(9),34 and 59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Homicide

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic homicide reviews took place in each of the last five years; and in what proportion of cases there was evidence of stalking or harassment of the victim. [75437]

Lynne Featherstone: The information requested is not available. The statutory requirement to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews only came into effect on 13 April 2011. For this reason there was no previous requirement to notify the Government of reviews being undertaken.

Human Trafficking: Northern Ireland

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people trafficked through Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available. [74573]

Damian Green *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* No estimate has been made of the number of people trafficked through Northern Ireland.

As set out in the Government's strategy on human trafficking, we are strengthening action at the border to improve our ability to identify those most at risk. The Home Office is working closely with the Ministry of Justice in Northern Ireland to strengthen UK borders against serious and organised crime threats such as human trafficking.

Metals: Theft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the incidence of scrap metal theft. [74233]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office contributes to the wide-ranging plan of work being delivered by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Metal Theft working group to tackle metal theft. In addition, discussions are taking place with other Government Departments to identify whether any legislative changes should be made to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964.

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce levels of theft of copper and lead from buildings. [74554]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office contributes to the work being delivered by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Metal Theft working group to tackle metal theft. In addition, discussions are taking place with other Government Departments to identify whether any legislative changes should be made to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964. The Home Office's Forum for Innovation in Crime Prevention is also looking at how innovative design and technology could be used to tackle the increasing incidence of metal theft, both now and in the future.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Association of Chief Police Officers' Conductive Metal Theft Working Group has met in 2011; and on which occasions a Minister has attended. [74567]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) Metal Theft Working Group has met three times during 2011.

The Home Office is represented at these meetings by officials; Ministers do not attend.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* publications and *(b)* legislative proposals have been brought forward by the Association of Chief Police Officers' Conductive Metal Thefts Working Group. [74568]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* In September 2011, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Metal Theft Working Group supplied the Home Office with a report from Deloitte on the estimated cost of metal theft; in addition, in 2010, they compiled a metal theft problem profile.

Separately, in September 2011 the British Transport police provided the Home Office with suggested changes to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much direct funding her Department has allocated to each civil society organisation in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if she will make a statement. [74822]

Damian Green: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department provided £56.9 million grant funding to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) during 2010-11. Forecasted funding for 2011-12 is £57 million, but, since grant applications have not been fully received, it is not yet possible to break 2011-12 spend down by organisation. No forecasts are yet available for 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

The Home Office funded hundreds of VCS organisations during 2010-11 The following table lists those paid more than £250,000 during the year.

Third parties	*Grant spend in 2010/11 (£)*
Refugee Council	7,294,672.50
Catch 22	5,456,030.00
Refugee Action	4,982,070.02
Eaves Housing for Women Ltd	2,198,280.00
Co-ordinated Action	1,250,991.38
Scottish Refugee Council	1,211,648.25
Welsh Refugee Council	955,681.00
Migrant Helpline	944,472.50
Crimestoppers Trust	900,000.00
The Survivors Trust	898,333.00
Police Dependants' Trust	453,481.33
Active Change Foundation	360,640.82
London Tigers	336,739.57
Princes Trust	326,100.00
Inner City Guidance	304,997.30
Strategy to Reach Empower and Educate	295,388.00
Initiative for Muslim Progression	282,255.24
Siraat Ltd	281,015.00
Refuge	272,100.00
Womens Aid	260,000.00
Fast	252,525.00

Providing a full list of organisations would involve significant data cleansing activity which would result in a disproportionate cost to the Department.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* her Department were seconded to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) 2010. [72971]

Damian Green: The information stored on our central computerised personnel system Adelphi, does not enable us to answer the question directly, it records the numbers of staff seconded out from *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* the Department but it does not record the specifics of the recipient organisation. In order to answer the question it would be necessary to inspect the manual personnel files of all those seconded out over the years concerned. For this reason the information could not be provided except at disproportionate cost.

The Office of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman has been asked to comment. They advise that for the period 2007-10 inclusive there were no staff seconded from *(a)* the UK Border Agency, or *(b)* the Department. They do not have records for the years 2005 and 2006.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty: Northern Ireland

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on devolving air passenger duty to Northern Ireland. [75049]

Miss Chloe Smith: From 1 November 2011, the rate of air passenger duty (APD) for direct long-haul passengers departing from airports in Northern Ireland will be cut to the short-haul rate, which is currently £12 in economy and £24 in business and first class.

This measure is a response to the unique challenge facing Northern Ireland and is designed to ensure local airports remain competitive, demonstrating the Government's commitment to stimulating and rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy.

In parallel the Government are launching a process for the devolution of aspects of APD to the Northern Ireland Assembly to provide a lasting solution to the unique circumstances Northern Ireland faces.

Devolution of APD to Northern Ireland will require primary legislation. The precise scope of devolution will be agreed in close consultation with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Bank Services: Switzerland

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likelihood of UK taxpayers with bank accounts in Switzerland moving such accounts from Switzerland as a result of the agreement with that country on offshore tax evasion. [71195]

Mr Gauke: It is impossible to give a precise assessment of the likelihood of UK taxpayers moving their accounts from Switzerland. Under the terms of the agreement the Swiss authorities will give HMRC details of the top 10 destinations of funds which do move from there. Any person who moves funds from Switzerland and does not pay the tax levied under the agreement will still be liable for all UK taxes on those funds.

European Fighter Aircraft

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department was represented when the decision was taken to slow down orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter. [73861]

Danny Alexander: The decision to slow down orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter was taken by the Ministry of Defence. The agreement was signed on 28 July 2011. The Treasury has not been involved in this decision, as it falls within MOD's delegated authority.

National Insurance Contributions: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency have participated in the national insurance holiday scheme. [75091]

Mr Gauke: A breakdown of successful applications for the NICs Holiday by constituency will be published in the NICs Holiday Factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

National Insurance: Databases

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value in current prices is of the *(a)* original estimate and *(b)* final cost of the National Insurance Recording System 2; and what additional costs, in current prices have been incurred since its completion. [65637]

Mr Gauke: The NIRS2 project was instigated by the then Department of Social Security prior to the merger of the Contributions Agency into the former Inland Revenue Department. The contract with Accenture started in May 1995 and finished in April 2004 and it was subsequently subsumed into the Aspire contract between the former Inland Revenue Department and Capgemini (which entered into force in July 2004), with effect from January 2005.

Since June 2009, the NIRS2 service has been delivered as part of the National Insurance and PAYE (NPS) and Associated Services and the figures given in the following tables include NPS development and running costs, as well as NIRS2 costs and costs on-charged to the Department of Work and Pensions.

Since January 2005, the following costs have been charged under the Aspire contract.

Running costs to August 2011

	£ million
NIRS2	55.789
NPS	10.122
DWP	6.507

Note:
The DWP figure is on-charged to DWP and may be included in any figures provided by that department.

Project costs to August 2011

	£ million
NPS	13.607
NIRS2	1.214
NIRS	27.425

Note:
None of the costs above have been grossed up to today's prices

Pensions: Females

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of recipients of tax relief on pension contributions were women in the latest period for which figures are available. [73786]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The estimated proportion of individuals receiving tax relief on pension contributions that were women was 46% for the year 2009/10.

The information is published on the HMRC website at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7-11.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Customs and Excise staff were employed in Scotland in each year since 1997. [75050]

Mr Gauke: The following table contains a breakdown of the headcount and full-time equivalent staff for HM Revenue and Customs and prior to that HM Customs and Excise based in Scotland at the end of each financial year from 1 April 1997. Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise merged to form HMRC in April 2005. For 1997-99 only headcount figures are available.

	Date	*Headcount*	*FTE*
HMRC	31 March 2011	9,860	8,826.6
	31 March 2010	10,031	9,038.0
	1 April 2009	11,063	10,039.5
	1 April 2008	11,018	10,131.7
	1 April 2007	11,464	10,519.9
	1 April 2006	11,415	10,470.6
HMCE	1 April 2005	1,324	1,288.2
	1 April 2004	1,275	1,240.8
	1 April 2003	1,222	1,190.4
	1 April 2002	1,215	1,184.7
	1 April 2001	1,291	1,255.6
	1 April 2000	1,324	1,289.5
	1 April 1999	1,363	n/a
	1 April 1998	1,397	n/a
	1 April 1997	1,447	n/a

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the cost of telephone calls made by the public to HM Revenue and Customs; and whether he plans to reduce the cost to individuals of such calls. [72977]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The cost of calling HMRC is dependent on several factors. Calls are charged to the customer based on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use for the call and the location from which they call.

However, HMRC recognises that the cost of calling its 0845 numbers can be an issue for some customers—particularly those using pay-as-you-go mobile phones. It has therefore been actively reviewing its numbering strategy to see if it can find ways of reducing the costs involved while striking the right balance between costs to the caller and costs to the public purse.

I can confirm that as part of the process of agreeing its next telephony contract—which is due to take effect by June 2013—HMRC will continue to investigate alternatives to 0845 numbers. As a first and immediate step, HMRC expect that it will by the end of the year be able to offer an 0345 number for those customers calling its tax credit helpline (which last year accounted for around 40% of the total calls handled by its contact centre network).

The provision of a 0345 number is expected to result in significant cost savings for the majority of callers to the line.

Tax Avoidance

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many promoters HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has required to disclose tax avoidance schemes since May 2010; how many such schemes have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* closed (i) since May 2010 and (ii) in each year since 2005; and how many schemes are under investigation by HMRC. [70214]

Mr Gauke: Since 1 May 2010 78 promoters have disclosed tax avoidance schemes under the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes legislation.

To remove any doubt about a scheme's effectiveness, legislation has been changed in relation to the following numbers of disclosed schemes in each year since 2005:

	Number
1 June 2005 - 31 May 2006	223
1 June 2006 - 31 May 2007	173
1 June 2007 - 31 May 2008	101
1 June 2008 - 31 May 2009	40
1 June 2009 - 31 May 2010	18
1 June 2010 - 31 May 2011	17

Legislative changes are, of course, just one of the ways in which HMRC may respond to disclosures.

All disclosures received by HMRC are subject to close examination. It is the returns of scheme users that are potentially subject to enquiry rather than the scheme disclosure itself and each disclosed scheme may have multiple users. Many users of the schemes are subject to further investigation by HMRC's teams of tax specialists. Although information on investigations is held by HMRC, it is not collated centrally in the form requested and it is not possible to provide details within the time and cost constraints.

Tax Collection: Foreign Workers

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the possible effect of changes to Tier 1 and Tier 2 visas on tax collection from migrant workers. [75092]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

An Impact Assessment of respect of the impacts, including the fiscal impacts, of the changes made to Tiers 1 and 2 of the Points Based System in connection with implementation of limits on migration was published by the UK Border Agency on 16 March 2011, and can be found at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/ia/migration-perm-limit-pbs/

Taxation: Civil Disorder

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have made special arrangements with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for the payment of tax due to the public disorder of August 2011. [75094]

Mr Gauke: As at 12 October 2011 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) had agreed 166 time to pay arrangements through its Civil Disorder Helpline.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the level of farming regulation. [74293]

Mr Paice: The Government remain committed to reducing the burden of regulation on farmers and the authorities they deal with. The independent Task Force on Farming Regulation published its report on 17 May. The Government are now carefully considering implementation of the report's recommendations, and expect to provide an initial public response this autumn followed by a final response early in 2012.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken in respect of the resolution of the House of 23 June 2011 to introduce a regulation banning the use of all wild animals in circuses to take effect by 1 July 2012. [74058]

Mr Paice: The Government understand the House's desire for a ban and are continuing to assess how the legal obstacles may be overcome so that one could be achieved.

In the meantime, we are developing a tough licensing regime which will stop circuses using wild animals if they do not provide appropriate welfare standards and will consult on these early next year. We want regulations in place by July 2012.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made in banning the use of wild animals in circuses by July 2012. [74512]

Mr Paice: The Government understand the House's desire for a ban and are continuing to look at how the legal obstacles may be overcome so that one could be achieved.

In the meantime, we are developing a tough licensing regime which will stop circuses using wild animals if they do not provide appropriate welfare standards and will consult on these early next year. We want regulations in place by July 2012.

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards the introduction of a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. [74623]

Mr Paice: The Government understand the House's desire for a ban and are continuing to look at how the legal obstacles may be overcome so that one could be achieved.

In the meantime, we are developing a tough licensing regime which will stop circuses using wild animals if they don't provide appropriate welfare standards and will consult on these early next year. We want regulations in place by July 2012.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the introduction of a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. [73862]

Mr Paice: The Government understand the House's desire for a ban and are continuing to assess how the legal obstacles may be overcome so that one could be achieved.

In the meantime, we are developing a tough licensing regime which will stop circuses using wild animals if they do not provide appropriate welfare standards. We will be looking to consult on the proposals in early 2012 with a view to having regulations in place by July 2012.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken towards banning the use of wild animals in circuses. [73863]

Mr Paice: The Government understand the House's desire for a ban and are continuing to assess how the legal obstacles may be overcome so that one could be achieved.

In the meantime, we are developing a tough licensing regime which will stop circuses using wild animals unless they provide appropriate welfare standards and we will consult on these early next year. We want regulations in place by July 2012.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1085W, on wildlife: circuses, what estimate she has made of the cost of enforcing a licensing scheme for wild animals in circuses using Government approved vets. [74003]

Mr Paice: It is our intention that the costs of enforcing a licensing scheme for animals in circuses will be borne by the circus industry itself, through the cost of the licence fee. DEFRA intends to hold a public consultation on the proposals in early 2012. The consultation package will include an impact assessment that will set out our estimate of the costs of enforcing, in addition to meeting, the standards we will be proposing.

Animal Welfare: Standards

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if her Department will provide additional support for farmers who apply stricter animal welfare standards than the EU minimum. [73850]

Mr Paice: Farmers who apply stricter animal welfare standards than the EU minimum can demonstrate that their products have added value, and are therefore able to market them at, and charge, a premium. While the Government support farmers' efforts to adhere to, and exceed, EU animal welfare standards, we do not believe there is a case for market intervention in this case.

Animals: Electric Shock Equipment

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals on the use of electronic training aids for *(a)* cats and *(b)* other animals. [70109]

Mr Paice: We are currently evaluating recent research on the use of electronic training collars for dogs before making any decisions on whether to introduce any legislative proposals relating to such devices. The research is expected to be published before the end of the year.

Biofuels

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the Environment Agency on the *(a)* disposal of glycerol, *(b)* use of chemicals such as methanol and *(c)* need for biodiesel on UK roads to meet EU Standard EN14214 in respect of producers of biodiesel made from waste cooking oil who do not require a permit. [73967]

Mr Paice: Any business treating waste cooking oil to produce biodiesel legally will either require an environmental permit or, if it qualifies, have to register an exemption from the need for a permit.

The Environment Agency has produced position statements on "The use of glycerol produced during the manufacture of biodiesel as a fuel" and another on "The environmental regulation of the production and use of biofuel". We have not discussed the use of biofuels on the roads, which is a matter for the Department for Transport and does not involve the Environment Agency.

DEFRA officials have met representatives of industry and the Environment Agency about the theft of waste cooking oil and possible illegal manufacture of biodiesel.

Fortified Vitamins

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential effects in the UK of Danish legislation on fortified vitamins. [75462]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

Legislation on the addition of vitamins and minerals to food is harmonised at European Union level, the impact of which was assessed prior to its introduction in 2007. A copy of the Regulatory Impact Assessment is available at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/addsubstanceeng07ria.pdf

Media reports claiming that Denmark has 'banned' a number of well known British foods are incorrect. The media reports relate to products that had not been notified to the Danish authorities in accordance with EU legislation on fortified foods as implemented in Denmark.

Ofwat: Public Appointments

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to announce the new Chairman of Ofwat; and if she will make a statement. [74611]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and the Welsh Government have decided to relaunch a recruitment exercise to appoint a new Chair of the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat). Philip Fletcher CBE has agreed to remain as the Ofwat Chair until his successor is appointed.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the implementation of the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive in each other EU member state; and if she will make a statement. [74102]

Mr Paice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has recently written a joint letter with nine other like-minded member states to the Commission urging them to act to deal with the likelihood of non-compliance from 1 January 2012.

The Commission requested that all member states provide a further update on the level of conversion out of conventional cages as at 27 September. The UK has submitted this return.

EDUCATION

Care to Learn Scheme

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parents aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 18, *(e)* 19 and *(f)* 20 received support through the Care to Learn scheme in each of the last five years. [73656]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Care to Learn Childcare Support scheme for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 14 October 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ73656.

The information you requested about the number of parents who have received Care to Learn is as follows:

	Age					
Academic year	*Under 16*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*
2007/08	330	681	1,384	2,108	2,230	964
2008/09	340	658	1,357	2,067	2,226	1,066
2009/10	368	779	1,576	2,416	2,342	372
2010/11	325	657	1,389	2,118	1,882	237
2011/12[1]	61	201	393	663	616	91

[1] These are take-up figures as at 30 September 2011, all other figures reflect the full academic year and are therefore greater.

Training Studies

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what longitudinal studies on speech, language and communication his Department undertook in each of the last five years. [73069]

Sarah Teather: The Department is funding the Better Communication Research programme which aims to provide an understanding of the cost-effectiveness of interventions used to support children and young people with speech, language and communication needs and identify good practice. The programme includes a longitudinal study of pupils with speech, language and communication needs and autism which began in 2009. The final report from the programme is due in 2012.

Early Intervention Grant

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* cash and *(b)* percentage change was in the early intervention grant to each London borough in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [71683]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Early Intervention Grant (EIG) is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated grant which came into effect in April 2011. The grant replaced a number of funding streams which ended in March 2011. The grant will total £2,222,555,697 in 2011-12 and £2,307,196,996 in 2012-13. Information on individual local authority's EIG allocations is available on the Department's website at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/e/early%20intervention%20grant%20s31%20determination%202011-12.pdf

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken to concentrate *(a)* new free schools in the poorest towns and cities and *(b)* the catchment areas of new free schools. [72151]

Mr Gibb: Half of the 24 free schools which opened in September this year are located in the 30% most deprived communities, based on the indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) measure. For the 2012 application round, the Department received 281 applications, many from local groups wanting to improve educational standards in their area. All free school applications are assessed against the criteria published on our website as well as against other free school applications. As the Department's website also says, wider contextual factors, such as the level of deprivation in the community, are taken into account when considering which projects should proceed to the next stage. A list of successful projects for the 2012 application round is available on the website.

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/freeschools/b00197715/free-schools-2012

It is not for the Department to determine the admissions arrangements for individual free schools. Free schools are however, required to adopt arrangements that comply with the school admissions code.

Free Schools: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications his Department has *(a)* received and *(b)* rejected for the establishment of free schools in Newham; and what consultation (i) his Department and (ii) Partnerships for Schools has conducted on the (A) establishment, (B) composition and (C) location of free schools in Newham. [72284]

Mr Gibb: The Department has now completed the process of assessing the applications it has received to establish free schools in 2012. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education made an oral statement on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 62-64, about those that are approved to move to the next stage of development. We received seven applications to establish free schools in Newham and three of these applications have been approved to move to the next stage of development.

The successful applicants are required to consult locally in accordance with section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. Neither the Department nor Partnerships for Schools have undertaken any consultations on free school applications in Newham.

GCSE: Males

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that *(a)* working class, *(b)* ethnic minority background and *(c)* other boys perform to the same level as girls in their GCSEs. [74704]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Government believe that the best way to raise boys' attainment is by raising the status and quality of teaching; investing in school leadership; setting clear expectations of what all children must know and be able to do at each stage of education and freeing up schools to develop their own strategies for tackling underperformance.

There is no single strategy that has been shown to achieve the best possible results for boys, disadvantaged boys or boys from a minority ethnic background. Evidence does show however, that schools are independently important for narrowing attainment gaps. That is why we are providing head teachers with the freedom and the funding they need to develop local solutions to local needs.

From April 2011, for example, the £201 million Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant has been mainstreamed into the wider Dedicated Schools Grant. This will give schools greater freedom over how the grant is spent and allow them to respond more flexibly to the needs of ethnic minority pupils.

We have also introduced a pupil premium and increased this to £488 per pupil, providing additional funding for the most disadvantaged pupils of both genders at both primary and secondary level. Total funding for the pupil premium is £625 million in 2011-12 and this will rise to £2.5 billion a year by 2014-15.

The data, from foundation stage onwards, do point to a persistent problem with boys' mastery of English and literacy. To narrow the GCSE attainment gap between boys and girls, we need intervene early to make sure that boys can read well. By ensuring high quality synthetic phonics teaching, we will improve literacy levels for all pupils, helping them to develop a love of reading and giving them a solid base on which to build their future education.

Schools: Playing Fields

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many school playing fields have been sold in England for development in each of the last 20 years; and what acreage of fields was sold in each year; [73545]

(2) what provisions govern the sale for development of school playing fields. [73546]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* There have been 226 applications approved in the last 13 years that involve the sale of a school playing field. Of these 112 were in respect of closed schools where the playing field was not needed by any other local school. Prior to 1998 playing fields were not protected and this information, along with the acreage of fields sold each year, is not held centrally.

School playing fields are protected by section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The aim of the legislation is to stop their indiscriminate sale. It sets out clear criteria for sales and establishes a system of checks. Schools and local authorities must obtain the Secretary of State for Education's approval before they can dispose of their land; and applications to dispose of school playing fields are approved only when it is demonstrated that the land is genuinely surplus to the needs of all local schools and community sports activities.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed for relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74911]

Mr Davey: In the last 12 months there have been no new cases of civil servants from the Department having been relocated (receiving a relocation payment) or agreed for relocation (relocation application approved but no payments made).

Departmental Postgraduate Education

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department at *(a)* director general and *(b)* director level have qualified as a master of business administration. [75203]

Mr Davey: In core BIS (ie excluding UKTI and agencies) there are currently two directors general and four directors who are qualified as masters of business administration. In addition one BIS director has a doctorate in business administration.

Senior Civil Servants

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants his Department employed in each of its three most senior grades *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [73655]

Mr Davey: In June 2009 the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) was merged with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to create the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Therefore we only have access to data from this date.

The coalition Government are committed to publishing staffing data as part of the transparency agenda. Departments and other public sector organisations are required to publish a breakdown of their senior staff data. BIS information from these exercises is shown in the following table and is also available on the website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

Grade	*30 June 2010*	*31 March 2011*
Permanent Secretary	1	1
Chief Scientific Advisor	1	1
SCS PB3—Grade 2	9	7
SCS PB2—Grade 3	40	31

Note:
Data excludes agencies and UKTI.

Employment: Complaints

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of spurious claims by former employees against their employers. [75646]

Mr Davey: Earlier this year, my Department launched the resolving workplace disputes consultation, a significant step in the Employment Law review. This consultation sought views on various measures to deter weak claims and help improve business confidence in the employment tribunal system, such as increasing the maximum levels for cost awards and deposit orders. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has already announced our intention to increase the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims from one to two years. We will publish our Government response in the coming weeks setting out how we intend to proceed with the remaining proposals.

Financial Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the financial sector in the Isle of Man on investment in the UK. [74487]

Vince Cable: Ministers and officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills meet a wide range of organisations nationally and internationally on a variety of trade and investment issues as part of our continuing commitment to growth.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what analysis he has undertaken of the *(a)* potential financial benefits of charging for access to Government data via a public data corporation and *(b)* potential economic benefits of adopting open data principles for such data. [73790]

Mr Davey: The Government are currently running two public consultations related to public data, on 'Making Open Data Real: A Public Consultation' and 'Data Policy for a Public Data Corporation', which close on 27 October 2011. As part of the Growth Review the Government are looking at the possible benefits of releasing more data as 'open data' to stimulate growth. One of the aims of a Public Data Corporation is to provide a more consistent approach towards access to and accessibility of public sector information from certain organisations, balancing the desire for more data free at the point of use while ensuring affordability and value for taxpayers. Responses to the consultations will support internal analysis of these issue, which will enable Government to reflect on an appropriate policy framework for a Public Data Corporation.

Multinational Companies

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the introduction of country-by-country annual reporting by all multinational companies listed in the UK on profits made and taxes paid in each country where they operate; and if he will make a statement. [74034]

Mr Davey: The Government believe the most effective way of improving transparency on this issue is for the EU to develop a reporting system for the extractives sector that matches the standards in the Dodd Frank legislation in the US.

Office of Fair Trading: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Office of Fair Trading using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73498]

Mr Davey: An electronic file of the details of Government Procurement Card transactions undertaken by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) for financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be deposited in the Libraries of the House. Due to the way information was recorded during the periods in question, the dates shown are normally those on which the transaction was entered on to the accounting system rather than the actual purchase dates. The actual purchase dates and level 3 or enhanced transaction entries could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Procurement Cards are primarily used for the purchase of low-value items and to settle travel and subsistence costs incurred by staff travelling on OFT business. This not only guarantees on-time payment to suppliers, particularly beneficial to small and medium sized enterprises, but is also a cost-effective contributor to efficiency targets.

Postal Services: VAT

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the potential change in the level of revenues to the Exchequer that would arise if the Royal Mail's value added tax exemption were reduced to cover only the universal service obligation and did not apply to downstream access services. [56878]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not publish estimates of impacts on specific taxpayers as this would breach taxpayer confidentiality.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will assess the potential effects of the removal of the biodiesel duty differential on the Government's green energy targets; and if she will make a statement; [74962]

(2) if she will assess the level of awareness amongst *(a)* the public, *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(c)* large corporations of the environmental benefits of biodiesel; and if she will make a statement; [74963]

(3) whether her Department maintains a national register of companies who operate using biodiesel. [74964]

Norman Baker: In respect of his question on the biodiesel duty differential, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1173W. We have recently consulted on proposals to amend the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) to implement the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). The RED contains a target for the UK to source 15% of its overall energy, and 10% of energy used in transport from renewable sources by 2020.

The Government have no intention of extending beyond 31 March 2012 the temporary duty differential for biodiesel derived from used cooking oil. We have not made an assessment of how this might affect our longer-term 2020 renewable energy targets, as any impact is likely to be short-term. The consultation document referred to above explains how we have proposed to support biofuels which meet mandatory sustainability criteria via the RTFO.

We have no plans to assess the level of awareness of the environmental benefits of biodiesel among the public and UK companies. Nor do we maintain a national register of companies who operate using biodiesel. We do, however, raise awareness of the environmental impacts of biofuels in numerous ways, including via our website and through regular ministerial speeches and statements.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she issues guidance to the Government Car and Despatch Agency on the *(a)* loan and *(b)* purchase of vehicles; and if she will place in the Library a copy of any such guidelines. [73265]

Mike Penning: All vehicles purchased by the Government Car and Despatch Agency are obtained through the Government Procurement Service approved framework. While specific guidance is not usually issued by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, she does retain responsibility for advising on the choice of cars for Ministers when necessary.

Harbour Authorities

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of her Department have had with representatives of competent harbour authorities since May 2010. [75468]

Mike Penning: Ministers and officials meet with representatives of competent harbour authorities from time to time in the normal course of departmental business.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* authorised pilots, *(b)* assistant pilots and *(c)* apprentice pilots were employed in each of the competent harbour authorities in the latest period for which figures are available; [75469]

(2) what the average time of service was of authorised pilots in each of the competent harbour authorities in the latest period for which figures are available. [75470]

Mike Penning: The Department does not hold this information.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to ensure the maintenance of standards determined by a competent harbour authority under section 3(2) of the Pilotage Act 1987 on age, physical fitness, time of service, local knowledge, skill, character and otherwise. [75471]

Mike Penning: None, as this is the function of the harbour authority concerned. Competent harbour authorities are responsible for the provision of pilotage services to ships navigating within their operational area; they are also responsible for the authorisation of the marine pilots that operate there.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has plans for future high speed rail stations at *(a)* Manchester airport and *(b)* other sites in the north-west. [69029]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 6 September 2011]:* HS2 Ltd is currently preparing detailed advice on route and station options for the north-west. This element of the company's remit also instructs it to provide advice on serving major airports in the regions that would be served by HS2.

Large Goods Vehicles

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received from *(a)* cycling organisations, *(b)* road safety organisations and *(c)* individuals on potential changes to legislation governing the length of heavy goods vehicles. [73263]

Mike Penning: Details of the categories of respondents to the consultation on increasing the length of semi-trailers are in Section 1.3 of the Government's response, available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-06

Since the consultation closed the Department has received further representations relating to cycling and road safety.

These representations were taken into account in my decision to launch a 10-year trial of 1800 longer semi-trailers, and to appoint an independent consultant to monitor that trial.

Ports

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether all borrowing by major trust ports classified as public corporations counts against annually-managed expenditure or departmental expenditure limits for the purposes of HM Treasury classification rules. [74050]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 681-82W.

Railways: Nuneaton

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger *(a)* arrivals and *(b)* departures have been made at Nuneaton railway station in each of the last five years. [74668]

Norman Baker: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) produces estimates for the number of passengers using stations on the rail network in Great Britain each year based on ticket sales. The estimated number of entries, exits and interchanges at Nuneaton station in each of the last five years for which figures are available are shown in the following table:

Estimated entries, exits and interchanges at Nuneaton railway station: 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Entries	*Exits*	*Interchanges*
2005-06	316,184	321,604	238,480
2006-07	341,417	348,688	273,211
2007-08	349,979	356,993	197,157
2008-09	407,485	407,485	291,096
2009-10	447,479	447,479	210,343

Further information about these estimates can be found in the reports on the ORR website at the following link:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1529

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she proposes that her response to her recent consultation on the implementation of the transport elements of the renewable energy directive will consider proposals for two separate obligation targets for biodiesel and ethanol under the renewable transport fuels obligation. [73607]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The Department received representations on a number of issues related to the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) during consultations on the renewable energy directive (RED). These included suggestions that the RTFO should distinguish between bioethanol and biodiesel, arguing that if it did this might provide a mechanism to drive equal demand for both products. The suggestion has been taken into account through the consultation exercise.

The RTFO is a mechanism designed to reduce carbon emissions and promote the supply of sustainable biofuels. It does not seek to direct the market towards a particular biofuel product or method of production.

We expect to publish a Government response soon setting out both our plans and the timeline for implementation.

Roads: Dartford

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has discussed with the Mayor of London the construction of a road transport crossing between Blackwall and Dartford. [68652]

Mike Penning: While the Secretary of State for Transport and the Mayor have regular discussions about a range of subjects, I understand that to date the construction of a new road crossing between Blackwall and Dartford has not been raised specifically in these conversations.

Roads: Large Goods Vehicles

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many roadside heavy vehicle tests were administered in each of the last three years. [74091]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) conducted the following number of roadside checks in the last three years:

	Roadside checks
2010-11[1]	276,124
2009-10	313,625
2008-09	225,410

[1] Figures are taken from VOSAs draft 2010-11 Effectiveness report which will be published shortly. Older versions are available from: http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/publications/corporatereports/corporatereports.htm

Note:

VOSA holds data on the number of tests rather than the number of vehicles, vehicles can be tested for more than one item at the roadside.

Shipping: Atlantic Ocean

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the number of daily shipping movements through the Western Approaches. [71955]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: A snapshot 24-hour period (9 September 2011) indicated that 188 east and west bound vessels transited through the Western Approaches to the English Channel. While the precise number of vessels transiting will vary day by day, this figure is assessed as an accurate daily average.

Tugboats

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what replacement arrangements her Department plans to make following the potential withdrawal of emergency towing vehicles at the end of September. [71943]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: The Government believe that ship salvage and towage is properly a commercial matter between a ship's operator and the established commercial tug industry. The commercial tug and salvage industry will be used by operators in future to assist ships that get into difficulty.

Following the withdrawal of publicly funded emergency towing vessels (ETVs), the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has arrangements in hand for shipping to be alerted in the areas affected. The relevant coastguard co-ordination centres will actively monitor shipping using the automatic identification system and will be proactive in contacting ships that are observed to be stopped at sea or behaving erratically. Coastguards will monitor tug availability in the waters around the UK and will encourage ship masters, owners and their insurers to take early action to summon tug assistance should ships get into difficulty or become disabled. Coastguards will also advise the principal salvage and towage brokers about the existence of disabled vessels so that they can match market capabilities with demand.

Additionally, Her Majesty's Coastguard has longstanding arrangements with ports, harbours and tug brokers for the supply of tugs in an emergency situation, and the Coastguard Agreement for Salvage and Towing (CAST) provides a further option for the provision of emergency towing.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department plans to end the use of emergency towing vehicles to provide emergency cover for any ships and boats needing assistance. [71944]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: The Government have decided that the continued provision of emergency towing vessel (ETV) cover around the coast of the UK at taxpayers' expense can no longer be justified. Accordingly, the current ETV contract was not renewed when it expired on the 30 September 2011.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has estimated the number of private emergency towing vehicles that would be available should a submarine or surface ship require assistance. [71976]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: On any day there will be around 400 vessels with a bollard pull of between 30 and 300 tons operating in UK waters and the North sea. Around 90% of these will typically engaged for service against short-term or long-term commercial contracts.

Around 10% of the vessels can be expected to be capable of being available to be tasked to respond to requests for salvage or emergency towage, with a majority of these being based along the east coast of the UK or in the North sea. There will also be tugs available to respond to vessels in the English channel and Western Approaches to the Irish sea although they may vary in number because their positioning closely reflects the likely opportunity for salvage and wider towage market conditions.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Public Sector Jobs

12. **Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the reduction in public sector jobs in Northern Ireland. [74415]

Mr Paterson: I last discussed economic matters with the First Minister and Acting Deputy First Minister yesterday. We all agree that Northern Ireland is overly dependent on public spending. The Government are committed to rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy by creating the conditions that will encourage the private sector to provide jobs for the future.

Corporation Tax

13. **Dr Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the devolution of powers in relation to corporation tax. [74416]

Mr Paterson: I discussed corporation tax, among other matters, with the First and Acting Deputy First Ministers yesterday. They will nominate Ministers to a Working Group chaired by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury which will clarify the key outstanding issues that need to be resolved in advance of decisions on whether to proceed. We expect the group to meet first in early November.

Construction Industry

14. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in public sector expenditure on the construction industry in Northern Ireland. [74417]

Mr Swire: We all recognise the importance of the construction industry to Northern Ireland and that is why the Executive has transferred £256 million to capital investment to promote infrastructure investment which will directly help the sector.

Bill of Rights

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress he has made on introducing a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. [75187]

Mr Swire: The Government remains committed to resolving this issue but in a way that secures consensus. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland recently wrote to party leaders raising as a possibility work being taken forward by the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Advertising

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75626]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, my Department has advertised all vacancies on the civil service jobs website; no money was spent on external advertising.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) the current and (ii) the next financial year; and what the cost will be of each such project. [74362]

Mr Paterson: The answer is as follows:

(a) My Department has undertaken one building project in this financial year in order to modify space in the department's London office. The estimated cost is £13,466 plus VAT. At this stage, there are no plans to undertake any building projects in the next financial year.

(b) The total amount spent on refurbishment for this financial year to date is £28,052. This expenditure relates to the maintenance of Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland for which the department is responsible. There are no current plans to undertake any refurbishment projects in the next financial year.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73662]

Mr Paterson: Spending on hospitality for the last 12 months is set out in the following table:

		£
	Secretary of State	*Minister of State*
September 2010	749	—
October 2010	188	965
November 2010	588	1,210
December 2010	889	112
January 2011	334	744
February 2011	651	—
March 2011[1]	1,854	79
April 2011	193	—
May 2011	1,219	339
June 2011[1]	1,764	413
July 2011	877	55
August 2011	506	349
September 2011	1,308	845

[1] Figures for March 2011 and June 2011 included functions hosted by the Secretary of State for the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and to promote the big society.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75161]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, my Department has not advertised any contracts on the Contracts Finder website.

Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75160]

Mr Paterson: Government takes cyber security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber Security

Programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber security capability.

The Northern Ireland Office routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF); these standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73205]

Mr Paterson: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Northern Ireland Parades Commission

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) when he last met the Northern Ireland Parades Commission; [73072]

(2) what *(a)* written correspondence and *(b)* other representations his Department has received from the Northern Ireland Parades Commission on reviewing the powers, responsibilities and work of the Commission in each of the last three years. [73073]

Mr Paterson: I last met with the Northern Ireland Parades Commission on 17 October. The Parades Commission wrote to me in June to inform me they were conducting a review of the processes and framework of the Commission's work under the current legislation. This is the only correspondence of this nature I have received from the Parades Commission during my tenure as Secretary of State.

Northern Ireland: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [74408]

Mr Paterson: The recent elections in Northern Ireland demonstrated that there is strong support amongst the people there for the institutions, and the politics is stable. These are advances of tremendous importance. But stability alone is not enough. It is now time to move beyond the politics of the peace process and to work towards building a more prosperous Northern Ireland in which everyone has a genuinely shared future.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has issued a security pass to Mr Adam Werritty. [75499]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* Mr Werritty has not been issued with a Ministry of Defence Main Building security pass. On the occasions of his visits to the building he was signed in on a visitor's pass in accordance with extant procedures.

Afghanistan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits he has made to Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [74640]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have not visited Afghanistan but look forward to doing so.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the conditions faced by service personnel on active service in Afghanistan. [73594]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* We regularly assess conditions for our service personnel in Afghanistan to ensure that we continue to do all that we can to assist them in what remains a dangerous, demanding and often austere operating environment.

To mitigate these harsh conditions we have in place a robust support and allowance package that is kept under regular review. This package includes a range of services such as shops, operational fitness equipment, and entertainment facilities. It also provides telephone and internet facilities and pastoral care by deployed chaplains. The services that individuals will be readily able to access will, however, understandably vary depending on their location.

Communication facilities, in particular, have been significantly improved in the last year. Iridium satellite phones, text link, e-mail and wi-fi internet access are now being provided at even some of the most austere locations. Moreover, in addition to the digital television that is provided in the main operating bases, British Forces Broadcasting Service has introduced an internet television facility to allow individuals a much broader range of options for what they can watch and when.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 76W, on Air Force: military bases, on what dates he discussed the RAF basing review with the Scottish Government; and if he will place in the Library the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each discussion. [74972]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The First Minister of Scotland (Alex Salmond MSP), and the previous Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), held two face to face meetings, on 11 January and 26 May 2011. These meetings took place when they were both in London and Glasgow respectively, and were not minuted.

As part of their regular liaison they also had a number of telephone conversations during the period in which the review of basing took place. They will have discussed a range of issues, including basing.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many persons were selected for each of the armed forces from each nation and region of the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [74159]

Mr Robathan: The requested information is not held centrally. However, details of the number of entrants from recruitment centres around the UK have been placed in the Library of the House. This will give an indication of the geographical spread of recruitment but does not provide a comprehensive picture of where these individuals may reside as they may not always apply to join the services through their nearest career office or may choose other means by which to apply.

Royal Navy and Royal Marine officers are primarily recruited via regional officer careers liaison centres, each of which covers a large area of the UK. Army officers are recruited through regional army careers advisers (ACA) based at an armed forces careers office in the area.

Consultancy Firms: Security

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what security restrictions have been placed on employees of consultancy firms based outside the UK engaged by his Department who are *(a)* non-UK citizens and *(b)* UK citizens. [73093]

Peter Luff: Appropriate security controls are applied to all Ministry of Defence contractors, including consultancy firms, engaged on classified Defence contracts. These are based on the level of protectively marked material to which a contractor requires access and forms part of the contractual arrangement with the Department. Where individual access to UK classified information is required, appropriate security vetting checks are conducted in respect of both UK and non-UK nationals residing outside the UK.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74991]

Mr Robathan: Information regarding the average cost to pay an invoice and the number of individual invoices paid electronically or by cheque is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information is available for the proportion of total payments made by value between electronic and cheque. For the first six months of financial year 2011-12 this was 99.3% and 0.7% respectively.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74322]

Mr Robathan: A table showing the current Ministry of Defence programme of approved building and refurbishment projects and the total cost of these projects has been placed in the Library of the House. Data relating to spend in individual financial years and information relating to some office refurbishments are not held centrally or consistently and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In 2011-12 some 700 upgrades are being carried out on service family accommodation at a cost of some £44 million. In financial year 2012-13 some 800 upgrades are planned at a cost of some £46 million.

In addition as part of a £1.4 billion investment programme, since 2003 some 40,000 new or improved single living accommodation bed spaces have been delivered. A further 20,000 are planned by 2013, subject to future funding decisions. The programme is being delivered through various initiatives across the Department. Again exact expenditure by year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by his Department in 2010-11; what guidance his Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if he will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72565]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, in commissioning external legal services in England and Wales, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) follows the guidance provided by the Attorney-General's Office. Where possible, we choose counsel from a set of panels filled by competition by the Attorney-General's Office. These four panels reflect levels of experience and location. Those counsel who undertake to join the panels are paid fees according to set hourly rates appropriate to their panel. The rates are set out in the following table:

Panel	*Hourly rate (£)*
A Panel	120
B Panel	100
C Panel	

Panel	*Hourly rate (£)*
Under five years' call	60
Over five years' call	80
Regional Panel	
Under five years' experience	60
5-10 years' experience	90
Over 10 years' experience	110

Details of those counsel who are currently on the panels are available from the website of the Treasury Solicitor's Department:

www.tsol.gov.uk/attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

The MOD is required to seek the Attorney-General's nomination in any case in which we wish to choose counsel who are not on the panel, for example, to use leading counsel. The panel system is also supplemented by the retention of two senior counsel known as 'First Treasury Counsel' to advise on, and represent the Department in, particularly complex and sensitive matters. Hourly rates of £220 have been agreed with the two current First Treasury Counsel, James Eadie QC and Jonathan Swift QC.

Similar arrangements exist in Scotland overseen by the Office of the Advocate-General. As with the Attorney-General in England and Wales, the Advocate-General maintains a panel of standing junior counsel in Scotland. The Advocate-General likewise approves nomination for the instruction of senior counsel.

When assistance from external firms of solicitors is required in England and Wales, the MOD also choose from panels of competitively selected firms, with which Government have negotiated fee rates. The MOD also instructs a panel of external law firms to provide commercial legal services in support of private finance initiatives and major Defence projects. Since January 2010, this panel consists of the following private firms: Denton Wilde Sapte, Shepherd and Wedderburn, Mills and Reeve, Pinsent Masons, Wragge and Co., Simmons and Simmons and Field Fisher Waterhouse. The MOD has in place framework agreements with each of these firms with rates which were agreed during the competitive selection process. Expenditure on the panel for 2010-11 is currently being collated.

In Scotland, the MOD acquires legal services for a period of four years by means of a competitive tendering exercise that is open to all law firms able to provide advice on Scots Law. From 1 September 2011, Morton Fraser LLP retained this contract following the competitive tender being found to provide best value to the MOD. I am withholding details of current rates charged, as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. I am however able to disclose that the fees paid in the last year of the former contract were £799,454, a lower figure than that incurred in each of the preceding two years.

Finally, in keeping with the Government's Transparency Agenda, since 2010 the MOD has subject to the accepted Freedom of Information and Data Protection exemptions, published details of payments of over £25,000 on a monthly basis at the following internet address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/ModSpend/ModSpendOver25000DataFiles.htm

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff his Department employed in each year since 1997. [74594]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the breakdown of full-time and part-time employees in the Ministry of Defence and the numbers of locally engaged civilians and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel from 1997 to 2011, as at 1 April each year.

As at April each year	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*locally engaged civilians*	*Royal Fleet Auxiliary*	*Total headcount*
1997	112,000	5,380	117,380	15,860	2,210	135,450
1998	105,620	5,190	110,800	15,160	2,360	128,320
1999	102,490	5,400	107,890	14,890	2,360	125,140
2000	100,580	5,620	106,200	14,870	2,420	123,490
2001	98,820	5,900	104,720	13,340	2,360	120,430
2002	89,780	6,100	95,870	14,120	2,370	112,360
2003	87,250	6,300	93,550	13,840	2,450	109,850
2004	87,640	5,700	93,330	15,430	2,310	111,080
2005	86,720	5,750	92,470	15,660	2,350	110,480
2006	82,230	6,430	88,660	16,290	2,340	107,300
2007	76,140	7,790	83,930	15,280	2,360	101,570
2008	70,840	7,470	78,320	13,080	2,270	93,670
2009	68,710	7,350	76,060	12,270	2,300	90,630
2010	68,180	7,480	75,660	11,980	2,330	89,970
2011	65,070	7,360	72,430	12,270	2,360	87,060

Notes:

1. All numbers rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. Full-time and part-time data split are not available for locally engaged civilians and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel, but they are deemed to be full-time for reporting purposes.
3. Headcount data have been used to ensure there is no statistical bias in presentation of full-time and part-time split in relation to full time equivalent value of part-time personnel.
4. April 2011 locally engaged civilian figures are 'estimates' due to non- availability of data.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [74997]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has a contract with a supplier to provide newspapers and copy rate magazines at a discounted rate to units within the London area. Expenditure under this contract in 2010-11 was recorded as £58,810.36.

MOD units outside London may purchase newspapers under local arrangements. Information on expenditure under these local arrangements is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A contract is also in place with a supplier to provide periodicals, journals and magazines on subscription. Expenditure under this contract in 2010-11 was recorded as £671,755.93.

Information on expenditure outside of this contract is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to announce the results of his Department's review of continuity of education allowance. [73999]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 36-38WS.

Falkland Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to visit the Falkland Islands to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict. [74475]

Mr Philip Hammond: I expect to take part in celebrations to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Falkland Islands conflict in London in 2012, but have no current plans to visit the islands.

Guided Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Exactor missiles have been used in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in the last three years. [75245]

Nick Harvey: The UK has deployed a range of systems in Iraq and Afghanistan to support coalition forces and to protect civilians. However, it would not be appropriate to make specific comment on individual capabilities as such disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* sorties and *(b)* hours have been flown by UK (i) Typhoon, (ii) Tornado GR4, (iii) E-3D, (iv) VC10, (v) BAe 146, (vi) HS125, (vii) C-130 Hercules, (viii) Chinook HC2, (ix) C-17, (x) Tristar, (xi) Apache AH1, (xii) Sea King ASAC.7, (xiii) Lynx HMA.8, (xiv) Merlin HMA.1 and (xv) Sea King HC.4 aircraft during Operation Ellamy to date. [74110]

Nick Harvey: From the beginning of current operations in Libya up to 6 October 2011, UK aircraft have flown a total of around 2,900 combat and combat support sorties lasting a total of around 17,350 hours. Of these totals, the UK has flown around 2,000 strike sorties, including Fast Jet and Attack Helicopter, lasting a total of around 10,580 hours.

Combat operations include: Tornado GR4; Typhoon FGR4; and Apache AH 1.

Combat support operations include: Sentinel R1; Nimrod R1; Sentry AEW 1; VC10K3; VC10C1K; Tristar K; Maritime Helicopters (Lynx and Sea King ASAC.7); C130; and C-17.

The hours included for C130 and C-17 are for flights that landed in Libya only. Further flights in support of Operation Ellamy have been flown to and from Italy and Cyprus. However, the information on the hours and sortie numbers of these flights is not held in the format requested.

I am withholding information regarding sorties or hours flown for individual aircraft type as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Libya: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military aid, training or equipment has been offered to the Transitional National Council of Libya; and if he will make a statement. [74315]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The UK has not provided any military training to the National Transitional Council (NTC) of Libya. However, a military mentoring team in Libya has enabled the NTC to better protect civilians and civilian areas by providing the NTC with mentoring on information handling, internal organisation and processes, logistics, communications and planning.

The UK has also provided £1.5 million to fund civilian experts assisting in a weapons disposal programme. As part of this commitment, we have provided a small team of UK military specialists to work alongside the Libyans and United States in preventing the proliferation of surface-to-air missiles.

To support the NTCs security efforts, the UK has provided communications equipment, body armour and police uniforms for use by police in Benghazi.

As the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced during his visit to Tripoli, the UK has gifted items including binoculars, GPS systems, and lifejackets with a value of approximately £65,000 to help the Libyans recommence naval security operations. All equipment provided is fully in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973 including the arms embargo.

On 15 September 2011, the Prime Minister announced an additional £600,000 funding for the Mines Advisory Group to protect civilians from unexploded devices in Libya. This brings the UK's contribution to the clearance of explosive remnants of war in Libya to £780,000.

Military Bases

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of service families in Edinburgh who have chosen not to live in service family accommodation. . [73359]

Mr Robathan: No estimate has been made of the proportion of service families in Edinburgh who have chosen not to live in service families accommodation (SFA). All eligible personnel who apply for SFA are offered accommodation within a reasonable distance of their duty station. Where personnel do not apply, personal preference will only be one of the relevant factors. Others may include eligibility or family commitments.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what compensation has been paid to companies for the early cancellation of the *(a)* Nimrod MRA4 design, development and production contract, *(b)* Nimrod MRA4 simulator and training systems, *(c)* Nimrod MRA4 support solution, *(d)* Nimrod MR2 simulator service, *(e)* Harrier HPAC support contract, *(f)* Harrier engine support contract and *(h)* Harrier TIEC communications upgrade. [74115]

Peter Luff: Negotiations with BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce on contracts relating to the Nimrod MRA4 and Harrier programmes were concluded in the summer of 2011. However, I am withholding further details as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has undertaken a sustainability assessment in relation to the transformation of RAF Leuchars into an Army base. [75189]

Nick Harvey: A high-level sustainability appraisal was undertaken in April 2011, which considered what the effects would be of changing RAF Leuchars to Army use, as well as of closing the site.

More detailed sustainability and other environmental studies will be carried out, as part of the ongoing re-basing process.

Territorial Army

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* regular army reserve officers in each category died in (a) Afghanistan and (b) Iraq in each of the last five years. [73141]

Mr Philip Hammond: Since 1 April 2007, 26 UK full-time Army officers, which covers regular officers, Gurkha officers, and full-time reserve service officers, have died as a result of operations in Afghanistan or Iraq. Of these, 23 were as a result of operations in Afghanistan and three were as a result of operations in Iraq.

There have been no deaths of either regular Army reserve officers or Territorial Army officers deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq during the same period.

The following tables provide a breakdown of the number of full-time regular Army officer deaths by operation and financial year, and shows this as the proportion of those deployed and as a proportion of those on strength.

Table 1: Full-time regular Army officer deaths as a result of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, 1 April 2007 to 9 October 2011 by financial year, numbers, and percentage

	All	*2007-08*			*2008-09*		
Category	*Number*	*Number*	*Deployed (%)*	*Strength (%)*	*Number*	*Deployed (%)*	*Strength (%)*
Afghanistan[2]	23	4	0.15	0.03	2	0.07	0.01
Iraq[2]	3	3	0.14	0.02	0	—	—

	2009-10			*2010-11*			*2011-12*[1]
Category	*Number*	*Deployed (%)*	*Strength (%)*	*Number*	*Deployed (%)*	*Strength (%)*	*Number*
Afghanistan[2]	10	0.28	0.07	5	0.12	0.03	2
Iraq[2]	0	—	—	0	—	—	0

[1] 201-12 Deployment data and strength data is not yet available.

[2] Includes those who were killed in action or died of wounds as well as deaths due to accidents, natural causes, assaults, and coroner confirmed suicide or open verdicts.

Unmanned Air Vehicle

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what potential savings in the costs of *(a)* training for and *(b)* operating the MQ-9B Reaper unmanned air vehicle and similar systems were identified by the Daedalus trial programme; [72962]

(2) for what reasons he has not implemented as standard practice the training model used in the Daedalus trial programme for piloting of unmanned air vehicles. [72963]

Peter Luff: There is currently no requirement to train non-pilot officers to operate unmanned air systems as the RAF has a sufficient number of trained pilots available to meet planned requirements.

There were no savings identified by the Daedalus trial.

Virtual Build

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on potential savings in the cost of equipment development through the use of virtual build. [72960]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is keen to encourage the use of efficient modern processes in the cost-effective development and manufacturing of military equipment among its suppliers and their supply chains. Exposure to the global market and competition ensures that industry remains well placed to take advantage of all such techniques, and the MOD undertakes direct research into industrial techniques when this is necessary to remain an intelligent customer.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74896]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not pay a separate London weighting or London living allowance. It does have in place two sets of salary scales for staff in grades below the senior civil service:

(1) National pay scale for staff based at its East Kilbride office;

(2) London pay scale for staff based at its central London office.

I have deposited in the Library a document where the appropriate pay scales can be found within.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74360]

Mr O'Brien: DFID operates a decentralised Learning and Development system and does not hold central records of small scale spend. DFID does however publish all expenditure over £500, which can be found on our website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/DFID-spend/

Producing any other type of report would incur disproportionate costs.

Environment: Poverty

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what timetable he has set for the development of his Department's strategic document setting out the inter-relationship between environmental management, climate change and poverty alleviation. [73011]

Mr O'Brien: DFID will develop its strategic document setting out the inter-relationship between environment, climate change and poverty alleviation over the next six months and finalise it in May 2012. The document will be made publically available.

SCOTLAND

Advertising

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75625]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on advertising job vacancies within the Department since May 2010.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has received representations concerning *(a)* the big society bank, *(b)* the Work programme and *(c)* volunteering since June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [75071]

David Mundell: Since June 2011, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I have received various representations from individuals and organisations about the big society bank, the Work programme and volunteering. In addition to responding to such representations, we are providing proactive opportunities for stakeholders across Scotland to discuss these matters with us through a series of seminars on unemployment and roundtable meetings on the big society.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74893]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not relocated or agreed to the relocation of any civil servants, in the last 12 months.

As staff are mainly on secondment from other Government bodies, any formal civil service relocation matters would be for the principal employers of our staff to consider.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74894]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has a number of staff based in London, all of whom are on secondment from other Government bodies. The majority are employees of the Ministry of Justice who have London rates of base pay and as such do not receive separately identifiable London weightings and London living allowances.

The remaining staff based in London are seconded from the Scottish Government and receive a London Pay Supplement, in addition to their normal salaries. From 1 April to 30 September 2011, a total of £1,310 was paid in London Pay Supplements.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75162]

David Mundell: Other than minor or bespoke purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the

Ministry of Justice. Since May 2010 no direct contracts have been awarded to third sector organisations by the Scotland Office.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75163]

David Mundell: Other than minor or bespoke purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice. Since May 2010 only one contract has been issued directly by the Scotland Office. This was issued to the Royal Mail for its role in providing candidates' free mailing in the Scottish parliamentary elections, the value of which was just over £6.4 million.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75165]

David Mundell: Other than minor or bespoke purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice. Since May 2010 only one contract has been issued directly by the Scotland Office, and this was issued to the Royal Mail during the Scottish parliamentary elections. The requirements of that contract, which were subject to article 61 of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2010, meant that it was not appropriate to advertise on the Contracts Finder website.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75164]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office uses an information technology system (SCOTS) operated by the Scottish Government, which are responsible for the procurement, administration, support, maintenance and security of the system. Under this arrangement, the Scotland Office is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75534]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not separately record information and expenditure on first class travel. It is Scotland Office policy not to use first class travel for officials. All ministerial travel is undertaken by the most efficient and cost effective way, in accordance with the Ministerial Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband: Cleveland

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to provide funding to improve broadband internet connections in rural East Cleveland. [75236]

Mr Vaizey: The allocation of funding for East Cleveland was included within the £770,000 Tees Valley funding allocation announced in August.

Broadcasting

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to paragraph 3(2) of Cm 8170 on broadcasting, what enabling measures would be needed to implement the matters set out in the framework agreement between his Department and the BBC; and whether any enabling measures other than the Public Bodies Bill will be needed to implement section 6 of the Framework Agreement. [75502]

Mr Vaizey: The definitive list of enabling measures necessary to implement the matters set out in the amended agreement cannot be determined at this stage.

I envisage that the enabling measures necessary for the reform of S4C include the Public Bodies Bill; an order under the Public Bodies Act, once passed; and that agreement to the governance and operational arrangements will be secured following the current discussions between S4C, the BBC and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), on the partnership model.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed for relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the United Kingdom. [74958]

John Penrose: No civil servants in the Department have been relocated, and none have agreed to be relocated in the last 12 months.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74959]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not pay London weighting and London living allowance in addition to basic salaries. London weighting was consolidated into basic pay on 1 August 2004.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74207]

John Penrose: This information is not collated in the manner requested. Providing it would exceed the disproportionate cost limit.

However, we do hold information about contracts entered into by the Department with private suppliers between 2007 and 2011, which is set out in the following table. The values listed cover the entirety of the contracts, which vary in length between three and five years.

	Contract title	*Supplier(s)*	*Value*
2007	IT Specialist Solutions	Atos Origin	[1]£25 million
2007	Temporary Clerical and Administration Staff	Brook Street/ Hays	£1.5 million
2007	Travel Management Services (Rail)	Hogg Robinson	£520,000
2007	Travel Management Services (Air/Ferry)	Capita Business Travel	£1.2 million
2007	Support for Delivery of DCMS Transformation Programme	Deloitte	£104,000
2008	Taking Part Survey	BMRB	£4.1 million
2008	Promoting of international Arts in the UK	Visiting Arts	£300,000
2008	Recruitment of 5 GOE Interim Managers	Russam CMS	£3.3 million
2008	Children's Play Policy and Research Programme	Play England	£324,000
2008	Consultancy Support for DCMS Change Programme	PA Consulting	£127,000
2008	Playworker Training and Educational Programme	SkillsActive	£1.1 million
2009	Ceremonial and Works Management	EC Harris	£713,227
2009	Recruitment of HR Specialists	Morgan Law	£500,000
2009	Legal Services—Independently Funded News Consortium	DLA Piper	£200,000
2009	Managed Financial and Accounting Services	Liberata	£1.6 million
2010	Cultural Contact Point (jointly funded with the European Commission)	Visiting Arts	£300,000
2010	Facilities Management Services	Carillion	£5.1 million
2010	Mailroom and Associated Services	Ecovert	£828,833
2011	Taking Part Survey	TNS-BMRB	£5.3 million

[1] This amount is an estimate, as the contract has a fixed and variable pricing structure.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75523]

John Penrose: This Department spent £2,020 on first class train travel between May 2010 and September 2011. There was no expenditure on first class travel by air or boat in that period.

All travel by Ministers and staff is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of government business. [73218]

John Penrose: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct government business.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment has he made of the likely effects of the decision to retain the Olympic Stadium in public ownership on the prospects for success of London's bid to host the 2017 World Athletics Championships. [74677]

Hugh Robertson: The Government have guaranteed to the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) that the Olympic Stadium will retain its running track for the 2017 World Athletics Championships. The decision to keep the stadium in public ownership reinforces the Government's commitment to a legacy of top-level athletics in the stadium from 2014, further strengthening our bid.

Olympic Games 2012: Scotland

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the benefits to Scotland of the London 2012 Olympic Games; and if he will make a statement. [75214][1]

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the nations and regions group (NRG) to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 games.

As part of the funding of the London 2012 activity in the nations and regions the Department is contributing towards the costs of the Scottish Government employing the Inspire programmer in Scotland from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

1.*[Official Report, 2 November 2011, Vol. 534, c. 1-4MC.]*

Scotland stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how Scotland will benefit from the games are given as follows.

Over 19,800 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's London 2012 education programme, Get Set, including 1,251 in Scotland. That represents 44.7% of the total number of schools and colleges in the nation. 95 schools in the Fife area have registered for Get Set including Glenrothes High School.

Over 1,700 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire mark. In Scotland 36 projects have been awarded Inspire marks. In June 2011, the Festival of Sport was launched in Scotland, Fife council participated in this Inspire marked project. The aim of the festival was using the inspiration of the games to profile physical activity and increase the membership of sports clubs.

The Legacy Trust have awarded £4.7 million for 'The Scottish Project', a diverse range of cultural, sporting and educational activities, bringing together thousands of volunteers, artists and the public to leave a lasting legacy from London 2012 and Glasgow 2014.

In addition, 25 contracts have been awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to businesses in the nation. These include KN Environmental Services Ltd from Perth who provided materials for the Aquatics Centre, Millstream Associates Ltd from Aberdeen who provided procurement services and Mason Land Surveys Ltd from Dunfermline who provided engineering services. The hon. Member can find a list of contractors on the ODA suppliers map at the link as follows:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/map.php

So far 4,072 companies in the nation have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised), and 48 contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers. Not all the information on 'supply chain' level contracts is in the public domain. There may be other companies that have secured 'supply chain' contracts in the nation.

Locations across the UK, particularly those that are hosting international teams in pre-games training camps (PGTCs), have additional opportunities to realise the economic benefits of the games. Two agreements have been signed with teams to hold PGTCs in Scotland, with the National Olympic Committees of Zambia and Namibia. In addition, Hampden Park will host rounds of the football competition.

The Department is currently working with Glasgow 2014 Ltd on the post-games relocation of shooting range assets to Scotland. Furthermore, there is the potential for relocation of other facilities as part of the LOCOG post-games games equipment and assets transfers.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefits

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid to each local authority to meet the cost of council tax benefit in each of the last five years. [73381]

Steve Webb: The available information on payments in respect of council tax benefit paid to claimants has been placed in the Library. Information on payments in respect of local authority costs of administration is not separately available for council tax benefit.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74987]

Chris Grayling: The full cost, for the year ended 30 September 2011, of processing the payment of an invoice electronically is £0.45, and manually £3.32.

98.46% of invoices were settled electronically and 1.54% were paid by cheque.

Estate Maintenance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the maintenance backlog on his Department's estate in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the time required to complete such maintenance. [74258]

Chris Grayling: In 1998, the Department let a 20-year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract with Telereal Trillium for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation, for which the Department pays an all-inclusive unitary charge. This unitary charge includes a risk price element for all aspects of building maintenance, repair, routine decoration and refurbishment, known as Life Cycle Works.

Detailed plans are produced by Telereal Trillium annually and reviewed by DWP to ensure that all proposed work is delivered to the Department's satisfaction. This ongoing programme of validation has ensured that DWP has no backlog of maintenance relating to its estate.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of staff of his Department who lost laptop computers were issued with a final written warning in each of the last five years. [74464]

Chris Grayling: I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 424-25.

The centrally held records cannot be broken down further to identify the action taken where employees lost laptops for the periods in question. To attempt to do so would involve disproportionate cost.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many final written warnings were issued to staff of his Department who lost laptops, mobile telephones and Blackberry mobile devices between 1 May 2010 and 31 July 2011. [74465]

Chris Grayling: I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer given to him on 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 424-25.

The centrally held records cannot be broken down further to identify the action taken where employees lost laptops, mobile telephones and Blackberry mobile devices for the periods in question. To attempt to do so would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74910]

Chris Grayling: DWP does not have London weightings or London living allowances. For senior civil servants (SCS) there are no pay differentials for staff working in London. For staff below SCS there are separate pay scales for staff working in inner London and outer London and the pay scales are between £1,250 and £5,280 higher than national pay scales.

We estimate that the additional cost is £45.317 million for the 14,025 staff working in London.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75022]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is committed to reducing sickness absence and has made significant improvements in recent years. We have cut absence rates from a peak of 11.1 average days lost in March 2007 to 8.1 average days lost in March 2011. Currently the Department is operating at 7.8 average working days lost.

The following table shows a breakdown of average working days lost (AWDL) in each pay grade for 2010-11.

Grade	*AWDL*
Administrative Assistant	8.6
Administrative Officer	9.8
Executive Officer	7.4
Higher Executive Officer	4.6
Senior Executive Officer	3.8
Grade 7	3.2
Grade 6	1.8
Senior Civil Service	3.0

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of government business. [73199]

Chris Grayling: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct government business.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Education

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides to individuals in receipt of jobseeker's allowance who enrol on short college courses. [74185]

Chris Grayling: The Government recognises the importance that education and skills can play in helping people find work. Jobseekers may undertake up to two weeks of full-time training in any 12-month period, with the agreement of their Jobcentre Plus adviser, without jeopardising their benefit entitlements. Jobseekers who have been on jobseeker's allowance for more than six months are able to access training for up to 30 hours per week for up to eight weeks, subject to the agreement of their adviser, and still remain on jobseeker's allowance. Jobseekers can also undertake part-time education or training at any point in their claim and continue to receive jobseeker's allowance as long as they continue to meet the basic conditions of entitlement.

For other types of training, the Department can pay training allowances instead of jobseeker's allowance. But this, like help to cover travel costs for accessing training, or paying for replacement adult or child care to enable a claimant to undertake training, is met from the Flexible Support Fund and is discretionary.

The Department for Work and Pensions works with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government to ensure that publicly-funded skills and training support available to benefit recipients complements the employment support provided by Jobcentre Plus.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was between submission of an appeal against a decision on the award of *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance and the appeal hearing in the latest period for which figures are available. [73327]

Chris Grayling: In the current year, April 2011 to September 2011, the average actual clearance time (AACT) for an employment and support allowance (ESA) appeal was 35.2 days. For the same period the average actual clearance time (AACT) for a disability living allowance (DLA) appeal was 31.9 days.

The start date for measuring the clearance time is the date that a duly made appeal is received within the Department of Work and Pensions. The end date is when the appeal submission is issued to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

In addition, the table shows the average time taken from receipt of an appeal at HMCTS to the date of the first appeal hearing for employment and support allowance and disability living allowance appeals.

The information covers 1 April to 31 August 2011, the latest period for which figures are available.

	Average time in weeks from receipt at HMCTS to first hearing
Employment and support allowance	23.20
Disability living allowance	25.48

Waiting times for a hearing result from an unexpectedly high level of appeals. In response, HMCTS has significantly increased its capacity and, nationally, published management information showing that 28% more social security and child support appeals were cleared between 1 April and 31 August 2011 when compared with the same period in 2010 (and 72% when compared with this period in 2009). In August 2011 clearances were 27% higher than August 2010, and 84% higher than August 2009. The number of disposals in August 2011 exceeded receipts for the eighth consecutive month. Further capacity increases are in hand.

The source of the data is the Management Information System Programme (MISP). MISP is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

Sources:

1. HMCTS Social Security and Child Support monthly returns

2. Department for Work and Pensions - Management Information Statistics

Work Capability Assessment: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Wrexham (i) applied for incapacity benefit, (ii) were requested to attend a personal capability assessment, (iii) had their incapacity benefit refused following an assessment and (iv) had their incapacity benefit reinstated following a review or appeal in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [74624]

Chris Grayling: Since October 2008, new claims to incapacity benefits have been made to employment and support allowance so the only flows to old-style incapacity benefits—incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA)—have been from linked claims. Information on flows to incapacity benefits and other benefits can be found on the Department's Tabulation Tool at the following link:

http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_on/tabtool.html

For example, the following link shows flows onto old-style incapacity benefits for people of working age by region/country. This shows the number of flows in the year to February 2011 was 1,820 in Wales:

http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_on/ibsda/cdquarter/ccgor/ccclient/a_carate_r_cdquarter_c_ccgor_p_ccclient_working_age.html

The number of flows onto old-style incapacity benefits in Wrexham local authority area is around 60. This is calculated from further breakdowns available using the tabulation tool.

Information tracking people claiming old-style incapacity benefits and what happened to them at the personal capability assessment (PCA) is only held from October 2008 onwards. At this stage most assessments related to existing longer term incapacity benefit claims and not new incapacity benefit claims, (i.e. repeat PCAs and not the initial PCA). Therefore, information relating to both initial and repeat PCAs combined has been presented.

Table 1 shows information on the number and outcomes of PCAs carried out between March 2010 and February 2011 (the latest data available). Note that the information in Table 1 cannot be directly compared to data on new claims to IB as the data contain information on repeat PCAs which make up the vast majority of PCAs carried out in this time period.

Table 1: Personal capability assessments outcomes, March 2010 to February 2011

	PCA exempt	*Disallowed at PCA*	*Pass PCA*	*Total*
Wales	1,400	5,200	16,300	22,900
Wrexham	0	100	200	300

Notes:

1. The information in the table is from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 claims and totals may not sum due to rounding.

Table 2 shows information on appeals that have been heard relating to PCAs carried out between March 2010 and February 2011 (as in Table 1). The Department only holds information on appeals once they have been heard by the Tribunal Service. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely there are more appeals that have not yet been heard, so the number of appeals is likely to change as more up to date information becomes available.

Table 2: Appeals heard for PCAs completed between March 2010 and February 2011 by decision made by the Tribunal Service

	Decision in favour of appellant	*Decision upheld*	*Total*
Wales	500	500	1,000
Wrexham	0	0	0

Notes:

1. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 claims and totals may not sum due to rounding.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Balkans: Politics and Government

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to help increase stability in Kosovo and the Western Balkans. [75062]

Mr Lidington: We believe that EU accession, and the accession process itself, is the best guarantee for bringing about long-term stability in the Western Balkans. As I said in response to the EU enlargement progress reports, we remain clear that the future of the Western Balkans lies in the EU once the full range of criteria have been met.

In addition to our support for the EU accession process, the UK also pursues a range of activity in the region aimed at increasing stability. The Western Balkans has been allocated £5.52 million this financial year as part of the Conflict Prevention Fund. Project work is also funded through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Diplomatic Values and Influence Fund—Reuniting Europe. Some examples of the steps the FCO has taken to help increase stability in the Western Balkans include:

In Albania project work supports the Supreme Court, Bar Chamber and Parliament. For example, the parliamentary project is working to tackle the political stalemate through supporting dialogue in Parliament.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the UK provides secondees to the EU Police Mission and the Ministry of Public Security. The UK strongly supports the role of the EU-led Peacekeeping Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR Althea, contributing troops, and has seconded a UK national to support the work of the EU Special Representative Peter Sorensen. The UK also commits programme funding to post-conflict reconciliation and Srebrenica-related projects.

In Kosovo, the UK currently provides over 30 secondees to the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), including the Deputy Head of Mission, judges, police officers and the Head of Customs. The UK is also funding conflict-related projects, such as on post-war property issues. Kosovo's progress as an independent state is crucial for the region's stability and to this end the UK remains actively engaged in lobbying for further recognitions. I have met the leaders of the Kosovan and Serbian delegations to the EU-facilitated dialogue, as the UK strongly supports the dialogue as a means for stabilising relations between Pristina and Belgrade.

In Macedonia, the FCO supported the Ohrid Framework Agreement academic conference in June. This reinforced the importance of closer inter-ethnic relations as a way of further securing stability in the country.

In Montenegro, the UK is providing project support to assist with the implementation of the reforms required for EU and NATO membership. This will enable Montenegro to be a stable country inclusive of all its communities and making progress towards its Euro-Atlantic ambitions.

In Serbia, the UK is spending £500,000 in this financial year supporting conflict prevention activity, including activities strengthening civil society links between Serbia and Kosovo, improving access for ethnic minorities to state institutions, and increasing the range of Serbian actors involved in reconciliation activity.

British Nationals Abroad: Rape

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of cases of a British citizen being raped abroad have (i) reached trial and (ii) resulted in a conviction in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [75204]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has an electronic database used to record our individual consular case handling. However, the database does not capture the specific statistics requested.

We take any report of rape or sexual assault seriously and will offer support as soon as possible and in private. The support we offer to British nationals who are victims of rape or sexual assault overseas is set out in our public guide 'Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide'.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Colombia on bringing to justice perpetrators of sexual violence against women and children during the armed conflict in that country. [73385]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government condemns all forms of violence against women and children.

We regularly call on the Colombian authorities to investigate human rights abuses fully and to take the necessary steps to protect those at risk including women and children.

Commonwealth

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to promote the Commonwealth. [74930]

Mr Bellingham: The Prime Minister will be leading a high-level ministerial team to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) in Perth this month, which includes the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and the Minister for the Commonwealth, my right hon. and noble Friend, Lord Howell of Guildford. This is a public demonstration of our commitment to the Commonwealth and to strengthening it as a focus for democracy, development and prosperity. We take every opportunity to raise the Commonwealth in public fora, and to promote and support the network's activities in the political, parliamentary, civil society, educational and professional spheres. The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), the Minister for the Commonwealth, and I have all spoken publicly and had articles published about the importance we attach to this unique organisation. During the last year, Ministers have visited more than 20 Commonwealth countries. We regularly meet our Commonwealth counterparts. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said earlier this year, we want to put the Commonwealth

"back at the very heart of British foreign policy".

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74948]

Mr Lidington: To ensure transparency the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) management board publishes, at regular intervals, records of their expenses on the FCO website. A record of expenses for the period April 2010 and March 2011 can be found on

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/publications1/annual-reports/senior-staff-expenses/

Data for the period April 2011 to 30 September 2011 will be published by the end of October.

Departmental ICT

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the original estimate was for the cost to the public purse of his

Department's Prism IT enterprise resource planning system in current prices; what the final cost was at the time of completion in current prices; and whether additional costs have been incurred since completion. [73917]

Mr Lidington: Prism has given greater access to over 10,000 Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff globally in more than 200 locations to HR and financial management tools and has simplified processes and enabled efficiencies. The value of the contract in current prices was £55.68 million when it was signed in January 2002. The original contract was extended by two years up to January 2012 to deliver additional new requirements that had not been originally planned. Final costs are not available until the end of the contract, as there is still on-going support and maintenance and some additional development

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74919]

Mr Bellingham: Aside from its posts overseas the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has staff working in London, Milton Keynes and Hanslope Park (north of Milton Keynes). Staff are able to bid for jobs in any of these locations but we do not compel staff to move to a different work location in the UK. Many choose to change the location of their work without relocating their home. During the last 12 months no civil servants have been relocated within the UK at public expense.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74920]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays a location allowance in London which is not directly linked to cost of living. It is funded from savings made in overseas allowances and leave. It is not reckonable for pension purposes. The FCO paid a total of £6,969,616 in 2010-11.

Falkland Islands: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Argentinian counterpart on the 30th anniversary of the Falklands conflict. [74494]

Mr Lidington: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), has not had any discussions with his Argentine counterpart about the 30th anniversary of the Falklands conflict. However, planning is under way across Whitehall and on the Falkland Islands for next year's 30th anniversary commemoration events. There are no plans for a joint Anglo-Argentine commemorative event.

Forced Marriage Unit: Finance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the operational budget was for the Forced Marriage Unit in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [75372]

Mr Bellingham: The operational budget for the Forced Marriage Unit was:

		£
(a)	2009-10	290,000
(b)	2010-11	283,000

Forced Marriage Unit: Manpower

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff the Forced Marriage Unit employed in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [75371]

Mr Bellingham: The Forced Marriage Unit employed seven members of staff in:

(a) 2008-09

(b) 2009-10

(c) 2010-11

Israel: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has recently raised the issue of illegal settlement building with his Israeli counterpart. [73296]

Mr Hague: We raise the issue of settlements, which we view as illegal under international law, with the Israelis on a regular basis.

Following the announcement by the Israeli Government of the creation of a new settlement at Givat Hamatos, I issued the following statement:

> "I am dismayed by the Israeli announcement on 14 October of a new settlement at Givat Hamatos. This provocative step, which further encloses East Jerusalem, is particularly disappointing given the international condemnation of the expansion of the Mordot Gilo settlement just a few weeks ago. Settlements are not only illegal under international law, but also undermine the possibility of a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and those working for a sustainable peace. I call again for these announcements to be revoked. Together with our EU and other partners we will make very clear to the Israeli government the strength of our concern."

I raised the issue of settlements with the Israeli Foreign Minister when I met him at the UN General Assembly on 23 September. The British ambassador to Tel Aviv raised the issue of the Mordot Gilo settlement and UK concerns with both Israeli National Security Adviser Amidror and chief negotiator Molho on 2 October. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), raised this issue with the Israeli ambassador to London on 3 October.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens who travelled to Libya to participate in the military action undertaken by the National Transitional Council; and if he will make a statement. [74746]

Alistair Burt: We are unable to provide an estimate of British nationals, or dual British/Libyan nationals, who travelled to Libya to participate in military action. Since the initial evacuation of British nationals in February, we have had no consular presence in Libya. British nationals are not obliged to inform the Government of their travel plans.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens wounded in military actions in Libya. [74747]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of one British national who was killed and one who has been injured in Libya since March 2011. However, it has not been possible to make a reliable estimate of the number of British nationals wounded in military action.

Middle East: Overseas Aid

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution has been made by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the EU to the funding of the Middle East Quartet in each of the last five years. [75367]

Alistair Burt: The Government have been seconding three members of staff to work in the Office of the Quartet Representative since 2007. Two members of staff are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and one by the Department for International Development (DFID). In 2007-08 DFID provided £400,000 for running costs. Since then the Government have not provided any further financial contributions to the Middle East Quartet, other than the staff mentioned above. We are not aware of any EU funding to the Quartet.

Moldova: Armed Conflict

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage a political solution to the conflict in Transnistria. [75064]

Mr Lidington: The UK supports international efforts to find a sustainable settlement on Transnistria and welcomes the agreement reached on 22 September to resume official negotiations in the 5+2 format, in which the EU holds observer status.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and senior officials regularly discuss the Transnistrian issue with their EU and other counterparts. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) and I discussed it with the Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Minister, Iurie Leanca, in London on 7 September. The Foreign Secretary also raised it with Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, in Moscow on 12 September.

The UK, drawing on its own experience of conflict resolution in Northern Ireland, is active in conflict prevention and confidence building work on the ground. The British embassy Chisinau's flagship Transnistrian Dialogues programme helps to bring together groups from both sides of the Nistru to discuss shared problems and identify solutions. The embassy is engaged in a number of other initiatives, including on the important subject of guarantees that could underpin the process leading to a settlement and an eventual settlement itself. An FCO-funded Political-Military Adviser is seconded to the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the incidence of road traffic accidents abroad involving British nationals; and if he will place a copy of any such research in the Library. [75085]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not commissioned any research on the incidence of road traffic accidents abroad. The FCO's Travel Advice and our 'Know Before You Go' publicity campaigns occasionally refer to statistics on road traffic accidents abroad. These statistics are obtained from the Department for Transport and independent automobile associations.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many deaths of British citizens occurred as a result of road accidents in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010 and *(e)* 2011 to date by country; [75087]

(2) what information his Department holds on the age profile of road traffic deaths of British citizens abroad by country in each of the last five years. [75232]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has an electronic database used to record our individual consular case handling. However, the database does not capture the specific statistics requested.

Syria: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which foreign counterparts he has had recent discussions on the situation in Syria. [73275]

Mr Hague: I have had recent discussions about the situation in Syria with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, with Foreign Ministers from the Arab league, Turkey, South Africa, Brazil, Nigeria, Russia, Italy, Jordan and the United States and with my EU colleagues at the Foreign Affairs Council on 10 October. Most recently, I discussed Syria with Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani of Qatar and President Aziz of Mauritania.

In my discussions, I made clear the UK's condemnation of the violence against civilians who are expressing their views in peaceful protests, and the need for the Syrian authorities to show restraint and to respond to the legitimate demands of people with immediate and genuine reform, not brutal repression.

We have also led work to secure UN action. The UN Security Council Presidential Statement issued on 3 August condemned the violence in Syria. On 4 October, the Security Council voted on a draft UK, French, German and Portuguese resolution on Syria, condemning the Syrian regime's use of force, calling for an end to violence, and threatening sanctions. Nine of the fifteen members of the UNSC voted in favour of this Resolution, but Russia and China regrettably chose to block it. It is a mistake on their part to side with a brutal regime rather than with the people of Syria.

Tourism

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens travelled abroad *(a)* as tourists and *(b)* on business by country in each of the last five years. [75240]

Mr Lidington: While the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does have a facility for British nationals to register their overseas travel plans, registration is entirely voluntary. We are therefore unable to provide the statistics and profile of travellers requested.

JUSTICE

Debt Collection: Local Government

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities that *(a)* use in-house bailiffs and *(b)* employ private bailiffs for debt recovery; and how many local authorities have closed their in-house operations in the last five years. [75368]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has made no estimate of the number of local authorities that *(a)* use in-house bailiffs and *(b)* employ private bailiffs for debt recovery; nor has it collected information on the number of local authorities that have closed their in-house operations in the last five years.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who supervises the *(a)* activities of and *(b)* charges made by private bailiffs' companies recovering debts owing to local authorities; how many illegal actions by bailiffs engaged in this work have been prosecuted in the last year for which figures are available; and what plans he has to establish a regulator for the charges and practices of bailiffs. [75370]

Mr Djanogly: There is no national body that supervises the activities and charges made by private bailiffs' companies recovering debts owing to local authorities. These activities and charges are governed by a combination of statute, secondary legislation and the individual contract arrangements agreed between the local authority and the bailiff company concerned. Concerns about the activities and charges of bailiffs, acting on behalf of a local authority, should be directed to the local authority or if appropriate, to the court for review. There are no figures available detailing the number of prosecutions against bailiffs for illegal action. The Government are clear that aggressive bailiff activity is unacceptable and are committed to bringing forward effective proposals which protect the public and ensure that bailiff action is proportionate. We will announce the details of these measures in due course.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74944]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Expenditure incurred by my Department's executive management board from May 2010—including expenses claimed—is published on its website.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/2010/directors-general-business-costs-and-hospitality-2010/index.htm

We will be publishing the next quarter (July-September 2011) in due course.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75154]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: A combination of information from the Contracts Finder Database and internal records shows that the number of contracts the MoJ has awarded directly to third sector organisations since May 2010 is 21. The value of these contracts is circa £17 million with a proportion of the final payment dependent on performance.

A breakdown by month is not currently available.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75155]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has awarded the following contracts directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses since May 2010.

	Number of contracts	*Total value of contracts (£ billion)*
Small	66	0.31
Medium	82	0.26
Large	153	2.26
Total	301	2.83

A breakdown by month is not currently available.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75157]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since May 2010 the Ministry of Justice has awarded a total of 301 contracts with a value of circa £2.83 billion. The requirement to publish contracts on Contracts Finder commenced in January 2011. Since January, the Ministry of Justice has published 235 contracts on Contracts Finder with a value of circa £2.79 billion.

Since May 2010 the Ministry of Justice has awarded 21 contracts to third sector organisation with a value of circa £17 million with a proportion of the final payment dependent on performance, and 66 contracts have been awarded to small businesses with a value of circa £312 million.

A breakdown by month is not currently available.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year for which figures are available. [72938]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) total expenditure on new furnishings for 2010-11 was £7.9 million. This excludes probation trusts and the Youth Justice Board.

The following is a breakdown by business groups (this excludes, probation trusts and the Youth Justice Board):

	£000
Ministry of Justice HQ Core (MoJ HQ Core)	1,261
National Offender Management Service (NOMS)	2,071
Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS)	4,353
Tribunals Services (TS)	120
Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)	71
Total expenditure on new furnishings for 2010-11	7,876

Please note the above figure for total expenditure on new furnishings for 2010-11 includes the £2.5 million relating to capital expenditure. Please refer to the following link to MoJ annual report for 2010-11 page 139:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/annual-report-accounts-2010-11.htm

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75156]

Mr Djanogly: The Government take cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber-Security Programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber security capability.

The Ministry of Justice routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF); these standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Harassment: Sentencing

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are serving a prison sentence as a result of a conviction for stalking or harassment-related offences. [75436]

Mr Blunt: Information held centrally cannot separately identify offenders serving prison sentences for stalking or harassment-related offences. This detailed information may be held by the prisons on individual case files, which are not reported to Justice Statistics Analytical Services.

Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were referred to the Trafficking Victim Support Scheme run by the Salvation Army between *(a)* 15 and 31 July and *(b)* 1 and 31 August 2011; and by whom. [73427]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

(a) Between 15 and 31 July, 14 individuals were referred to the Government-funded support service for adult victims of trafficking in England and Wales, which is run by the Salvation Army. The referrals were made by the police, the UK Border Agency, HM Prison Service, charities, and solicitors.

(b) Between 1 and 31 August, 36 individuals were referred. The referrals were made by the police, the UK Border Agency, social services, charities, solicitors and by individual victims (self referral).

Immunity Certificates

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many public interest immunity certificates were issued by the courts in the last five years; and under which legislative provisions in each such case. [74932]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information centrally on the number of public interest immunity certificates issued by the court and the legislative provision involved in each case. The requested information could be obtained only through the manual identification and inspection of individual case files held by the courts at disproportionate cost.

Legal Aid Scheme: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many acts of legal assistance were provided in *(a)* West Ham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Newham and *(c)* London in each of the last five years. [75039]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales.

The following tables show the numbers of acts of assistance delivered by legal aid providers in the last four years with postcodes falling within the West Ham constituency separately; the London borough of Newham as a whole, which comprises the West Ham and East Ham constituencies and the London regional area which shows the providers within the vicinity of the LSC's London regional office.

This information represents the nearest matches of the LSC's available data to the information requested. The figures for 2010-11 are not yet available.

West Ham constituency

	Crime lower claims	*Legal help new matter starts*	*Civil representation certificates issues*	*Crime higher cases*
2006-07	7,101	4,169	519	626
2007-08	6,078	4,599	538	629
2008-09	6,749	3,480	545	723
2009-10	8,133	1,528	409	990

London borough of Newham (comprising West Ham and East Ham constituencies)

	Crime lower claims	*Legal help new matter starts*	*Civil representation certificates issues*	*Crime higher cases*
2006-07	9,301	9,339	1,058	857
2007-08	8,682	9,104	1,025	877
2008-09	9,714	9,224	1,119	1,127
2009-10	9,953	6,030	1,133	1,214

London regional area

	Crime lower claims	*Legal help new matter starts*	*Civil representation certificates issues*	*Crime higher cases*
2006-07	266,138	158,638	26,692	22,090
2007-08	241,839	154,370	24,006	24,984
2008-09	256,332	176,957	26,989	28,759
2009-10	260,009	173,683	29,365	30,127

Offenders: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of foreign national offenders subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements have served custodial sentences. [75540]

Mr Blunt: As I explained in my reply to my hon. Friend of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 162W, information on the nationality of offenders subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Without that information, it is not possible to state the number and proportion of foreign national offenders subject to MAPPA who have served custodial sentences.

Prisons: Waiting Lists

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the waiting time is for places for Category D prisoners held in Category C prisons who wish to move to *(a)* HMP Blantyre House, *(b)* HMP Ford, *(c)* HMP Hatfield, *(d)* HMP Hewell, *(e)* HMP Hollesley Bay, *(f)* HMP Kirkham, *(g)* HMP Kirklevington Grange, *(h)* HMP Latchmere House, *(i)* HMP Leyhill, *(j)* HMP North Sea Camp, *(k)* HMP Spring Hill, *(l)* HMP Standford Hill and *(m)* HMP Sudbury. [75349]

Mr Blunt: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would be necessary to contact every category C prison and request them to consult individual prisoner records to identify the number of category D prisoners waiting for transfer into any of the prisons requested and the length of time they had been waiting.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74784]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In keeping with the rest of Government, Ministry of Justice employees will have a right to provide services through employee-owned or part-owned mutuals, as well as organisations such as social enterprises and co-operatives. We have been actively exploring opportunities for Ministry of Justice workers to leave the public sector to take over the running of services.

All such opportunities are being considered within the context of our strategic approach to competition, as set out in the Offender Services Competition Strategy[1].

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[1] http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/oscs.htm

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been sentenced to prison terms of *(a)* less than six months , *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between one and two years and *(d)* over two years in each of the last five years. [74162]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence at all courts in England and Wales for 2006 to 2010 (latest available) is provided in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Number of persons sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence at all courts, England and Wales, 2006-10

Sentence length	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Less than six months	59,134	57,536	58,076	57,392	58,497

Number of persons sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence at all courts, England and Wales, 2006-10

Sentence length	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Six months to 12 months	10,973	11,633	12,572	13,014	12,670
One year to two years	10,762	10,894	11,872	12,664	12,832
Over two years	15,148	15,143	17,005	17,161	17,514
Total	96,017	95,206	99,525	100,231	101,513

Notes:

1. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected Is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

3. Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Trials: British Nationals Abroad

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to ensure fair trials for UK citizens involved in *(a)* criminal and *(b)* civil proceedings in other EU member states. [75057]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: All EU member states are parties to the European convention on human rights and are required under that instrument to provide those charged with a criminal offence the right to a fair trial and to respect the fundamental rights of litigants in civil proceedings. The action that the Ministry of Justice can take bilaterally in respect of the domestic legal systems of other member states is limited; however bilateral meetings are sometimes held to raise particular issues in appropriate circumstances. Consular staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can offer assistance to British nationals who are detained in other EU member states. While they cannot give legal advice, they can give basic information about the local legal system and provide a list of local lawyers. If appropriate they will consider approaching the local authorities if a British national who has been arrested in another country is not being treated in line with internationally-accepted standards of justice.

At EU level, the Ministry of Justice is participating in the negotiations on a series of EU measures to set minimum standards in the area of procedural rights for defendants in criminal proceedings known as the "Roadmap" on Procedural Rights. These instruments aim to ensure that all member states provide a high minimum standard of rights to defendants so that competent authorities are able to operate EU instruments of mutual recognition against a background of mutual trust, and they will benefit UK citizens in other member states. The UK opted in to the first two measures on the Roadmap, but has not opted in at the initial stage of the negotiations to the latest directive: on access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and the right to communicate upon arrest. The Government believe that access to a lawyer is an essential right of accused persons at appropriate stages of any process of criminal investigations. However, we are of the view that the Commission's proposal is not proportionate and could have an adverse effect on our ability to investigate and prosecute offences effectively. The Government are participating in the negotiations and if our concerns are satisfactorily addressed, we will consider applying to opt in once the instrument has been adopted.

EU legislation in the area of civil judicial co-operation is restricted to matters having cross-border implications. In the context of facilitating the international recognition and enforcement of civil judgments within the EU, which is regulated at the EU level, a UK priority is always to secure a fair balance between enabling claimants to get their judgments recognised and enforced abroad and, at the same time, ensuring that there is proper protection for the interests of defendants. The means whereby this balance is struck varies depending on the nature of the particular civil proceedings which are being regulated.

Trials: Human Rights

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has made an estimate of the cost to the courts service of trying issues raised by litigants under the Human Rights Act 1998 in *(a)* criminal and *(b)* civil proceedings since 1997. [75059]

Mr Djanogly: The majority of claims and actions brought under the Human Rights Act 1998 are heard in civil courts. HM Courts and Tribunals Service charges fees to recover the full costs of civil actions from plaintiffs. Appellants are not charged fees by HM Courts and Tribunals Service for criminal appeals.

The information requested is not held centrally. Costs are either unavailable or can be derived only at disproportionate cost for hearings for which it is not possible to attribute case costs to elements of the decision.

For example, providing costs relating to the Court of Appeal would involve the retrieval and individual examination of a considerable number of files. However, few appeals would be decided solely on any 1998 Human Rights Act issue/s and there is no basis for determining how such issues affect the costs of a case.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on whether electoral registration is a *(a)* civic duty or *(b)* individual lifestyle choice; and if he will make a statement. [75890]

Mr Harper: The Government very much believe that registering to vote is a civic duty and we will strongly encourage people to register to vote. The Government also believe that the act is one of personal responsibility and that individuals who choose not to apply to register to vote should not be subject to a criminal offence. It is not an offence not to be registered under the current system and this will not change under the new system.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74960]

Mr Maude: Business expenses for senior officials in the Cabinet Office are published on a quarterly basis and can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/business-expenses-senior-officials

Information for quarters from July 2010 onwards will be published in due course. None of the non-executive board members has claimed expenses in connection with board meetings since May 2010.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed for relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74921]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not relocated or agreed to relocate any civil servants over the last 12 months.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74922]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office recognises the distinction between London and National pay rates with London and National pay bands. Details of Cabinet Office pay bands, as at 31 July 2011, are published on the

www.data.gov.uk

website at the following address:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/staff-organograms-and-pay-cabinet-office

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million and *(c)* over £1 million his Department has entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74217]

Mr Maude: Transparency in contract awards is important. This is why all awards from January 2011 to September 2011 are published monthly on the Contracts Finder website:

http://www.contractsfinder.co.uk

as part of the Government's transparency agenda.

The information requested before this date could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75112]

Mr Maude: The Government take cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber-Security Programme to improve the UK's cyber-security capability.

The Cabinet Office routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework and these standards are aligned with best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments, as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Government Departments: Procurement

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to inform small and medium-sized enterprises about the rules of public procurement. [74733]

Mr Maude: Both Cabinet Office and BIS provide a range of advice, guidance and information for SMEs on the Businesslink website at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/procurement

while generic information about public procurement is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/topic/59

We are planning to launch, in the late autumn, the new procedures for Lean Procurement, which will further help SMEs by improving pre-market engagement with prospective suppliers and by streamlining the procurement process to make it easier and simpler for all suppliers to do business with the Government.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75132]

Gregory Barker: The Government take cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber-Security Programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber-security capability.

The Department routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF); these standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75529]

Gregory Barker: In the period May 2010 to end September 2011 first class travel costs incurred by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) were:

(a) Air—0;

(b) DECC does not record boat travel separately from other travel and subsistence costs. To identify expenditure on 1st class boat travel in the period would incur disproportionate cost;

(c) Rail—£23,000.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with DECC's travel policy which requires that economy class travel should be undertaken unless there is a clear business or practical case for doing otherwise. First class air travel is prohibited in all circumstances.

Downstream Oil Industry Forum

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his recent discussions with energy companies have included representatives from UKLPG (the trade association for the liquefied petroleum gas industry in the UK); and whether the issue of communal contracts and the provision of variations to such contracts in order to enable individual domestic consumers to switch supplier has been discussed at such meetings. [75867]

Charles Hendry: There have been no recent discussions with representatives from UKLPG. A list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is available, on a quarterly basis, on the Department's website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

The Office of Fair Trading published its market study on off-grid energy on 18 October and noted that it was continuing to keep this area under review.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73214]

Gregory Barker: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

EU Energy Policy

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's priorities are for energy and climate change in European budget negotiations. [75483]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* The Government's representation in the negotiations on both the Annual Budget and Multi-Annual Financial Framework processes is led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), supported by relevant Government Departments on the basis of an agreed UK position.

While controlling the size of the budget is the UK's main priority, the Government believe that funding for climate change and energy objectives should make up a larger share of an EU budget that increases, at most, by no more than inflation in the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework, and that climate change objectives should be mainstreamed across all relevant Headings, ensuring that the EU's investments are compatible with and contribute to the EU's cost-effective transition to a low carbon economy. The Government have made this case to the Commission and will continue to do so as negotiations on the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework progress.

Feed-in Tariffs

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the cost of feed-in tariffs to taxpayers unable to utilise solar and wind power. [75910]

Gregory Barker: Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) are funded through consumers' energy bills rather than through general taxation. DECC estimates that FITs will lead to an average annual increase in energy bills for households that do not take up FITs of £8.50 over the 2011-30 period. This estimate is subject to change as a result of the ongoing comprehensive review of FITs; the review will seek to maximise money and cost-effectiveness in the scheme.

Fuels: Prices

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effect on the price of fuel of the practice of companies storing oil at sea; and if he will make a statement. [75242]

Charles Hendry: The Department has not undertaken a detailed assessment of the impact of storing oil at sea on fuel prices.

We recognise that changes in floating storage can have impacts on fuel prices, although, we believe, these effects in practice are small and transitory compared to more fundamental market drivers.

Green Deal

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what training his Department plans to provide to ensure that installers have the skills to meet demand for renewable technologies and energy-efficient products following the introduction of the Green Deal. [75354]

Gregory Barker: We are working with industry and the British Standards Institute (BSI) to set out clear standards for Green Deal installers, which will be published in January 2012. This will form the basis for new training frameworks.

In parallel, we are working with the sector skills councils, who have set up the Green Skills Alliance, to identify skills gaps and work with local training providers to create the training required to support the Green Deal. For many installers, this may simply mean updating their existing skills.

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from *(a)* high street retailers and *(b)* trade bodies regarding the delivery of the Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [75356]

Gregory Barker: The Department has received representations from high street retailers, trade bodies and a range of other potential Green Deal participants. We continue to explore with a broad range of participants options on all aspects of Green Deal delivery.

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with *(a)* manufacturers and *(b)* retailers to discuss steps to ensure that the supply of Green Deal technologies will meet demand. [75357]

Gregory Barker: The Department has had a number of meetings with manufacturers and retailers to ensure that the supply of Green Deal technologies will meet demand. We have also established a series of Green Deal fora which capture industry views and expertise, including a forum on supply capacity chaired by the Government's chief construction adviser Paul Morrell.

Green Growth Forum

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which representatives of his Department he expects to attend the Green Growth Forum in Denmark. [74656]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* Three officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change attended the Global Green Growth Forum on 11-12 October: Bernie Bulkin (Head of the Office of Renewable Energy Deployment), the Head of International Low Carbon Energy team and the Head of International Climate Finance Project Development.

Microgeneration

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the promotion of micro-combined heat and power systems. [75083]

Gregory Barker: Following the discussion of this technology at Committee Stage of the Energy Bill, the department has progressed with the commitment given at the end of that debate to consider the long-term role for micro-CHP. My officials met the hon. Member for Southampton, Test (Dr Whitehead) shortly afterwards and have also held talks with industry bodies.

In August the Micropower Council organised an event on micro-CHP involving senior DECC officials and the leading players from across the industry, and as a result of that meeting, the industry will shortly be presenting the Government with proposals for progressing this technology.

Micro-CHP is supported under the feed-in tariffs (FITs). A comprehensive review of the scheme is currently underway and is considering all aspects of the scheme including administration, tariffs and eligibility for FITs. We are intending to consult on formal proposals later this year. Changes as a result of the review will be implemented in April 2012 unless the review indicates the need for greater urgency.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74778]

Gregory Barker: In line with stated Government policy, DECC is committed to the principle of public service mutuals and the right to provide. DECC oversees very little service provision. Recent reviews (2011 DECC delivery review and spending review and DECC budgeting processes) have confirmed that the Department does not provide or commission services where further changes in provision arrangements would be appropriate.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74829]

Gregory Barker: In line with stated Government policy, DECC is committed to the principle of public service mutuals and the right to provide. DECC oversees very little service provision. Recent reviews (2011 DECC delivery review and spending review and DECC budgeting processes) have confirmed that the Department does not provide or commission services where further changes in provision arrangements would be appropriate.

Renewable Energy

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost of National Grid transmission charges would be for *(a)* Westminster city council, *(b)* Aberdeenshire and *(c)* Angus council selling renewable electricity to the Grid. [75229]

Charles Hendry: Transmission Network Use of System (TNUoS) charges are paid by renewable generators over 100 MW only—most renewable generators are connected to the distribution system and are not subject to TNUoS charges.

Westminster city council falls in the central London generation charging zone where the generation TNUoS charge is -£6.85/kW.

Aberdeenshire falls in the North Scotland generation charging zone where the generation TNUoS charge is £21.49/kW.

Angus council falls in the central Highlands charging zone where the generation TNUoS charge is £18.18/kW.

Ofgem are currently reviewing the transmission charging regime under Project TransmiT to ensure that it will facilitate low carbon generation while maintaining security of supply and having regard to the efficient use of the network. Project TransmiT is scheduled to reach a decision on any changes to the charging regime by April 2012.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the likelihood of achieving the interim target of four per cent. of UK energy consumption coming from renewable sources by 2012. [75570]

Gregory Barker: Member states are required to submit Progress Reports to the European Commission every two years to update on their progress towards meeting their interim and 2020 renewables targets. We will submit our first Report to the Commission by the end of this year. This will include a projection of expected out-turn against all of the UK's interim targets.

Renewable Heat Initiative Scheme

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect that the delay to the introduction of the non-domestic Renewable Heat Initiative scheme will have on the heating industry. [75353]

Gregory Barker: We have not made a formal assessment of the effect of the delay to introducing the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme. However, we are in regular contact with representatives from the heating industry. We understand that the delay is frustrating and remain committed to launching the scheme as soon as possible to minimise disruption to the industry.

Solar Power

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage the development of solar farms. [75270]

Charles Hendry: Solar photovoltaic (PV) is one of the technologies supported under the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme which is the mechanism of support to encourage the deployment of small scale low-carbon electricity generation up to 5MW. The level of support for solar PV installations over 250kW and all stand-alone PV installations is 8.5p/kwh.

HEALTH

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74947]

Anne Milton: Details of expenses claimed by departmental board members are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

This covers the period up to December 2010.

Further information on expenses claimed up to June 2011 will be published on the website shortly.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74982]

Anne Milton: Currently the Department holds no data on the cost of processing an invoice. The Department settles all its invoices electronically. This 100% electronic process has been in place since August 2006.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74905]

Mr Simon Burns: None of the Department's civil servants have been formally relocated with the use of relocation 'packages' within the 12 months. However, there were five or fewer cases of voluntary change of location where some help was given with removals costs where the moving was to the advantage of the Department.

During the same period of time, no other cases have been approved for prospective relocation in the foreseeable future.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74906]

Mr Simon Burns: The current departmental reward system for grades administration officer (AO) to grade 6 has built-in, higher premia, which reflect the cost of living in the London region. Currently these premia are £3,500 for inner London and £1,750 for outer London. The number of staff on an inner London pay-scale (as at 30 September 2011) was 1,256, (giving a maximum of £4,396,000) and outer London was 39 (a maximum of £68,250). The maximum figures are calculated using headcount numbers on payroll. Actual expenditure will be less than those maximum figures as some Department staff work part-time.

Some AO to grade 6 staff are eligible for 'legacy' payments, which relate to previous costs of living in London, on a reserved rights basis. The estimated cost of these payments is £206,711.

There are no regional premia or allowances attached to senior civil service pay scales.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [75002]

Mr Simon Burns: Expenditure on newspapers, periodicals and magazines purchased for library use in financial year 2010-11 was £169,686 and from April 2011 to date was £52,788. This does not include publications purchased by individual units as local expenditure was devolved from April 2010 and the information is no longer held centrally.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement; [75142]

(2) how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement; [75143]

(3) how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75145]

Anne Milton: The Department's central procurement database, which has provided the following information, holds information at the level of purchase order (PO)—these are individual items of expenditure and more than one PO may relate to a single contractual agreement.

The following table sets information on purchase orders awarded to third sector organisations by month since May 2010.

	PO Creation date	*Number of POs awarded to third sector organisations*	*Total monthly PO value (£)*
2010	May	83	5,080,277.35
	June	63	1,475,514.09
	July	41	129,030.81
	August	67	2,373,930.41
	September	39	1,228,959.93
	October	52	2,787,669.17
	November	55	3,025,349.80
	December	48	1,380,619.08
2011	January	48	1,682,418.14
	February	59	1,071,796.51
	March	59	2,190,488.24
	April	11	1,956,891.17
	May	9	23,425,727.33
	June	18	244,568.63
	July	13	30,932.75
	August	18	4,199,772.81
	September	11	2,436,608.38
	October	8	169,917.22

Suppliers are categorised simply according to whether they are a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) or not. Suppliers are not further categorised separately by small enterprise and medium-sized enterprise. The following table sets out information on purchase orders awarded to SMEs and non-SMEs by month since May 2010:

	PO Creation date	*SME or non-SME supplier*	*Number of POs awarded to non-SME or SME*	*Total monthly PO value (£)*
2010	May	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	532	39,183,145.04
		SME Commercial Supplier	369	7,991,056.82
	June	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	527	85,478,962.88
		SME Commercial Supplier	286	12,071,267.23
	July	Non-SME Commercial supplier	372	15,472,706.38
		SME Commercial Supplier	242	12,267,207.61
	August	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	392	34,520,461.61
		SME Commercial Supplier	154	12,337,549.03
	September	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	514	11,433,708.91
		SME Commercial Supplier	187	4,799,244.01
	October	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	456	36,216,845.04
		SME Commercial Supplier	203	7,155,178.08
	November	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	498	47,545,633.09
		SME Commercial Supplier	210	1,781,971.33
	December	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	311	10,985,166.29
		SME Commercial Supplier	166	2,112,601.83
2011	January	Non-SME Commercial supplier	394	35,169,522.91

	PO Creation date	*SME or non-SME supplier*	*Number of POs awarded to non-SME or SME*	*Total monthly PO value (£)*
		SME Commercial Supplier	149	17,655480.23
	February	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	405	9,769,790.22
		SME Commercial Supplier	172	2,495,222.96
	March	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	505	27,072,473.18
		SME Commercial Supplier	235	9,639,484.15
	April	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	186	30,243,827.75
		SME Commercial Supplier	96	13,545,853.90
	May	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	208	39,557,768.29
		SME Commercial Supplier	88	1,591,531.28
	June	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	328	93,444,950.43
		SME Commercial Supplier	128	15,882,092.23
	July	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	250	13,717,226.15
		SME Commercial Supplier	97	14,183,572.51
	August	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	259	44,900,738.06
		SME Commercial Supplier	84	2,049,183.98
	September	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	227	8,372,253.47
		SME Commercial Supplier	94	3,610,157.56
	October	Non-SME Commercial Supplier	115	2,495,716.56
		SME Commercial Supplier	41	373,776.37

The Department has advertised a total of 243 contracts or tenders on the Contracts Finder website, between May 2010 and July 2011. Information held within Contracts Finder does not permit reconciliation of the total contract value of these transactions or the proportion of business awarded to SMEs or third sector organisations.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75144]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government take cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to the United Kingdom's national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber-Security programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber-security capability.

The Department routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its information and communications systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF); these standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Diabetes: Screening

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide resources for opticians, chiropodists and pharmacists to acquire facilities and training to screen for diabetes. [74927]

Paul Burstow: The Government have no plans to provide specific resources for opticians, chiropodists and pharmacists to acquire facilities and training to screen for diabetes.

The Government remain committed to NHS Health Check, a public health programme for people in England aged 40-74 which assesses people's risk of developing or having undiagnosed diabetes, as part of a wider vascular risk assessment, and supports people to reduce or manage that risk through appropriate follow up.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to encourage members of British South Asian communities to undergo early diabetes screening. [75192]

Paul Burstow: The Government remain committed to NHS Health Check, a public health programme for people in England aged 40-74 which assesses people's risk of developing or having undiagnosed diabetes, as part of a wider vascular risk assessment, and supports people to reduce or manage that risk through appropriate follow up.

The NHS Health Check is included in the operating framework for the NHS in England 2011-12 and primary care trusts (PCTs) have been provided with funding for the programme in their baselines. Around 15 million people are eligible for the programme, which PCTs have been progressively rolling out since April 2009. The risk assessment element of the programme has been specifically designed so that it can be delivered in a variety of settings, including pharmacy and community settings to help ensure it is accessible to all. It is for PCTs to decide how best to commission their programmes to suit the needs of their individual populations, including how they meet the needs of members of the South Asian community, which has a higher risk of developing of diabetes than the national average.

General Practitioners: Codes of Practice

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines exist to assess the work of GPs who have previously been sanctioned for professional malpractice. [75330]

Anne Milton: The General Medical Council's (GMC) fitness to practise panels make decisions on appropriate sanctions for doctors whose fitness to practise is found to be impaired.

If the panel directs that a period of conditions or suspension should be imposed on a doctor's registration, it will usually also direct that a review hearing takes place shortly before the date on which the sanction is due to expire. At the review hearing, a panel will consider whether any further action needs to be taken against the doctor's registration.

Panels make their decisions independently, but are required to take account of the GMC's policy and guidance in determining the appropriate sanction, for example the GMC's 'Indicative Sanctions Guidance'.

Guidance for local primary care trusts on managing general practitioners (GPs) where concerns about their practice have been identified is published by the National Clinical Assessment Service in 'Handling performance concerns in primary care (2010)' and also in 'The Back on Track Framework for Further Training—Restoring practitioners to safe and valued practice'.

General Practitioners: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs in the London borough of Newham have been sanctioned for professional malpractice but continue to practice in the borough. [75331]

Anne Milton: This information is not centrally held. The hon. Member may wish to contact NHS East London and the City for further information.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Young People

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to promote sexual health amongst young people. [75272]

Anne Milton: Improving sexual health by reducing unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections is very important for young people. Young people need the right information and advice to make responsible choices. We are planning to publish our policy document on sexual health next year and this document will consider how these issues should be tackled, focusing on public health, and an evidence based approach.

Health

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria he plans to use to determine which draft outcome indicators will be included in the final Public Health Outcomes Framework. [75324]

Anne Milton: We published a list of 12 criteria for the selection of indicators in the consultation on the Public Health Outcomes Framework. They have been further refined by feedback from the consultation and engagement exercises with key stakeholders. An additional criterion was added as a result of this process. The criteria are as follows:

measure of health outcome or factor closely correlated to a health outcome;

aligns with the Government's direction for public health;

aligns with other Government Departments priorities/strategies;

evidence-based interventions to support the measure;

amenable to public health intervention, e.g. by public health professionals, local authorities, Public Health England, national health service;

major cause of premature mortality or avoidable ill health;

improvements in this measure will improve health-related quality of life (including mental health);

improvement in this measure will help reduce inequalities in health;

improvement in this measure will help improve healthy life expectancy;

meaningful to, and likely to be perceived as important by, the public;

meaningful to, and likely to be perceived as important by, local authorities;

existing system to collect data required to monitor the measure; and

statistically appropriate, fit for purpose.

In the light of these criteria, Ministers will decide which indicators are included in the final outcomes framework to be published in the autumn.

Health Services

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has plans for the future consolidation of acute services. [75573]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for national health service commissioners, working with providers, to determine the most effective configuration of services to deliver high quality care. It is important that strategic decisions are taken at the appropriate level, where commissioning is underpinned by clinical insight and knowledge of local healthcare needs.

The development of reconfiguration proposals by the NHS should also satisfy the Secretary of State for Health's four tests. These are that schemes should demonstrate:

a clear clinical evidence base, which focuses on improved outcomes for patients;

clear support for proposals from general practitioners as the commissioners of local services;

strengthened arrangements for patient and public engagement; and

support for patient choice.

Health Services: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether health services will be centralised at The Royal London Hospital should the proposed merger plans of the Barts and East London Healthcare Trust proceed; [75325]

(2) whether local GP commissioning groups will be involved in service reconfiguration as a result of the proposed merger plans of the Barts and East London Healthcare Trust; [75326]

(3) whether a mechanism is in place to retain health services currently being delivered in Newham in the borough should the proposed merger of the Barts and East London Healthcare Trust proceed; [75327]

(4) what financial modelling of the proposed merger of the Barts and East London Healthcare Trust has taken place in respect of *(a)* Newham University Trust's revenue deficit, *(b)* Whipps Cross University Hospital's capital deficit and *(c)* the private finance initiative requirements on Barts and the London Hospital; [75328]

(5) whether a mechanism is in place to ensure equal access to services and consultants for residents of the London borough of Newham should the proposed merger of Barts and East London take place. [75329]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the local national health service.

An outline business case for the proposal to establish Barts and East London Healthcare (BELH) was approved by NHS London on 4 August 2011. The three trusts, Barts and the London NHS Trust, Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust and Newham University Hospital NHS Trust have continued to develop the proposal into a full business case which includes work on financial modelling for all trusts involved in the prospective merger.

In the future it will be for local general practitioner commissioning groups to ensure that local services meet the needs of the local population. They will work closely with local acute providers to improve quality of care. BELH's immediate priority, when established, will be to improve local services.

Hearing Impairment: Health Services

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage accessible audiology services in England. [75271]

Paul Burstow: In 2010, the Department funded NHS Improvement to work with a number of national health service organisations to identify the benefits of pathway redesign in audiology services and spread good practice. Models to improve accessibility of audiology services including delivering care closer to home, delivering services in the community and the introduction of direct access healthcare scientist-led clinics have been identified and shared with the NHS.

A key enabler to improve accessibility is extending patient choice of provider which is intended to empower patients and carers, improve their outcomes and experience, enable service innovation and free up clinicians to drive change and improve practice.

Any qualified provider (AQP) is a model to support such choice—it means that when patients are referred (usually by their general practitioner) for a particular service, they should be able to choose from a list of qualified providers which meet NHS service quality requirements, prices and normal contractual obligations. Adult hearing services is one of the eight clinical areas identified through consultation as a priority for the first phase of AQP implementation. Subject to local commissioning decisions, during 2012, the AQP model will start to benefit people with hearing problems and will be a key step to ensuring greater access, choice and convenience for patients needing audiology services.

HIV Infection

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle HIV in the UK. [75186]

Anne Milton: The Department continues to fund the Terrence Higgins Trust and African Health Policy Network for national HIV prevention programmes for men who have sex with men and people from African communities respectively. This is additional to local HIV prevention funded by the national health service and others.

The Department is also taking steps to increase HIV testing to help reduce undiagnosed and late diagnosis of HIV. The Department funded eight pilot projects to assess the feasibility of increasing HIV testing in a primary and secondary care. The Health Protection Agency reviewed the pilots and we are considering the findings of their review report published in September. A copy of the report, "Time to test for HIV: Expanding HIV testing in healthcare and community services in England", has been placed in the Library.

The Department is also funding the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health to produce resources to support primary care staff in offering HIV testing.

Hospitals: Correspondence

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether guidance is in place regarding the length of time an hon. Member should wait to receive a response to correspondence from a Chief Executive of a Hospital Alliance in respect of a constituency matter. [75332]

Mr Simon Burns: All national health service organisations have a procedure for handling complaints within a reasonable period of time, and we would expect enquiries from hon. Members to be accorded at least the same priority.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level of expenditure from the public purse on musculoskeletal diseases in the NHS in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [74933]

Paul Burstow: Estimated gross expenditure on problems of the musculoskeletal system in England in 2009-10 was £4.76 billion. This estimate is derived from programme budgeting returns from strategic health authorities and primary care trusts. It includes the costs of prescribing by general practitioners, but not the cost of primary care consultations.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State of 4 July 2011, Official Report, column 1345, on musculoskeletal diseases, whether the National Quality Board has met to discuss musculoskeletal diseases. [75444]

Paul Burstow: The National Quality Board met on 14 July 2011. In the course of a discussion on its future work programme, the board noted the proposal from the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance for an outcome strategy for musculoskeletal disease. The board concluded that the final decision on whether to develop such a strategy must rest with the Department; and the board would stand ready to help with any issues of implementation.

Neurology

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on making provision in the Health and Social Care Bill for establishing and supporting neurology networks. [74884]

Paul Burstow: We are committed to retain and strengthen clinical networks and to use clinical networks to help ensure that a range of professionals play an integral part in the clinical commissioning of patient care. A review of current networks is being undertaken to assess how they can, in the future, most effectively support clinical commissioning groups and the NHS Commissioning Board in their commissioning arrangements.

Networks will not be separate new organisations, but it is expected that in future they will be hosted by the NHS Commissioning Board, to allow them to maximise the range and scale of support they provide to be most effective to clinical commissioning groups.

NHS: Finance

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1053W, on NHS: finance, what information his Department holds on income from third parties received by the NHS. [74883]

Mr Simon Burns: The document "NHS (England) Summarised Accounts 2010-2011 (HC1297)", which is available in the Library, discloses information on income received by strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and national health service trusts. The income disclosures for each type of body can be found at pages A23, B27 and C26 of the published document. The document can be viewed electronically at the following URL:

www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc1012/hc12/1297/1297.pdf

The Department collects data, for the purpose of producing the Summarised Accounts, from the NHS via the audited summarisation schedules. These schedules require NHS bodies to disclose, for each income line in the accounts, how much of that income is from other NHS bodies.

As such the Department is able to derive, for each income line in the accounts, how much of that income is received from third parties (i.e. non-NHS bodies). However, it is not possible to disaggregate this income by individual (non-NHS) third parties.

The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status, the Summarised Account of NHS trusts only includes the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.

Additionally, the Department has historically collected some data on income from staff, patient and visitors from parking charges. In this respect, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 12 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1053W.

NHS: Redundancy

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS public health consultant posts have been made redundant since May 2010; and what proportion of those were from black and ethnic minority backgrounds. [75576]

Anne Milton: Data on public health consultant redundancies and the associated diversity data are not collected centrally.

As part of the Department's commitment to ensuring a smooth transition to the new local public health service, the Department has, since April 2011, collected data from strategic health authorities and primary care trusts on the total number of public health staff in post. The Department is analysing the information collected and this work will enable the Department to identify increases or reductions in specific functions.

NHS: Reorganisation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effects of planned NHS reorganisation on the number of public health professionals in the NHS. [75575]

Anne Milton: As part of our commitment to ensuring a smooth transition to the new local public health service, the Department is monitoring the total number of public health staff in post in strategic health authorities and primary care trusts.

A baseline position of staff numbers within the public health workforce was established in April 2011 and updates are supplied and assessed on a quarterly basis. The Department is analysing the information collected and this work will enable the Department to identify increases or reductions in specific functions.

The Department's intention is to ensure that public health capability is maintained and robust transition arrangements are in place, and is working closely with strategic health authority cluster directors of public health who are responsible for overseeing public health transition in their regions.

Ovarian Cancer

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether ovarian cancer is included in his Department and Cancer Research UK's Stratified Medicine Programme; and if he will make a statement; [74934]

(2) what steps he is taking to make *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* GPs aware of the (i) signs and (ii) symptoms of ovarian cancer; and if he will make a statement; [74935]

(3) when his Department will publish guidance on how clinical commissioning groups should work with local authorities to promote *(a)* cancer prevention and *(b)* the awareness and early diagnosis of cancer; and if he will make a statement; [74937]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of whether a population screening programme should be introduced for ovarian cancer; and if he will make a statement. [74938]

Anne Milton: In "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January 2011, we have committed over £450 million over the next four years to support earlier diagnosis of cancer. This money will be used to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer; fund increased general practitioner (GP) access to diagnostic tests; and pay for more testing and treatment in secondary care. One of the tests we are increasing access to is non-obstetric ultrasound to support the diagnosis of ovarian cancer. We are working on a guide to help GPs with the relevant criteria for requesting non-obstetric ultrasounds.

To assess what more can be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care and to diagnose less common cancers such as ovarian cancer earlier, the Strategy also set out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer-focused charities to discuss their concerns. Departmental officials have already met with a number of these charities, including an ovarian cancer charity, with the aim of identifying some of the barriers to early diagnosis, such as symptom awareness, and to discuss potential solutions. This will inform our future work in this area.

Early symptoms ovarian cancer can include pain in the pelvis and lower stomach, persistent bloating and difficulty eating. However, they can be difficult to recognise, especially when the disease is at an early stage, as they are often the same as the symptoms of other, less serious, conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome or pre-menstrual syndrome.

To improve public awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer the Department has worked with health professionals, patient groups and charities to develop key standardised messages on ovarian cancer for the public. These are now available on NHS Choices and the Department encourages the national health service and charities to use them widely in awareness raising activities. Key messages have also been developed for health professionals to support the early diagnosis of ovarian cancer and are available on the Department's website.

In April this year, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline, the "Recognition and initial management of ovarian cancer", which sets out recommendations for the detection of the disease in primary care. In addition to this, NICE is developing a Quality Standard (QS) for ovarian cancer which will set out what good ovarian cancer treatment and support looks like and will help support clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) when they take responsibility for commissioning ovarian cancer services. Detection of ovarian cancer in primary care will also be considered when developing this standard.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the Department will hold the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) to account for the outcomes it achieves through the NHS Outcomes Framework, and will publish a mandate to the NHS CB which will set out objectives the NHS CB should seek to achieve. The Department will not, therefore, issue guidance directly to clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), but the NHS CB will be able to publish guidance for clinical commissioning groups, to which CCGs must have regard.

The Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) will be the forum to bring together elected councillors, local authority officers, patient representatives and clinical commissioning groups to develop shared understanding of local need, develop joint local priorities, and encourage commissioners to work in a more integrated and joined up manner, we have strengthened the requirements around HWBs involvement in the commissioning plans of CCGs.

Regarding the introduction of a screening programme for ovarian cancer, the NHS Constitution commits the Government to provide screening programmes as recommended by the United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC). The UK NSC is responsible for advising Ministers and the NHS in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy.

The UK NSC's current position on ovarian cancer screening is that it should not be offered except in the context of the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening (UKTOCS) randomised controlled trial. The UK NSC agreed at its meeting in June 2010 that screening for ovarian cancer would next be reviewed when results of UKTOCS were published or earlier if any new significant peer reviewed evidence emerges in the meantime. The initial follow up of the UKTOCS trial is expected to be complete in December 2014.

Finally, the Department is a partner in the Technology Strategy Board's Stratified Medicine Innovation Platform (SMIP) initiative and also Cancer Research UK's (CRUK) Stratified Medicine Programme. The SMIP brings together the stratified medicine-related activities of a number of important organisations to accelerate the development and uptake of stratified medicine in the UK. Specifically in cancer, the SMIP has so far invested £6 million in industry-led collaborations developing new genetic tests and data handling solutions, which are co-ordinated with CRUK's Stratified Medicine Programme.

CRUK is carrying out a two-year project to collect genetic data from tumours and information on how gene faults affect patient survival, helping research to develop new cancer drugs targeted at specific genetic mutations. The project will recruit up to 9,000 patients and collect data on six tumour types, including ovarian.

Palliative Care: Liverpool

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how often the Liverpool Care Pathway has been used in each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [75405]

(2) what obligation there is for medical staff to discuss the Liverpool Care Pathway with family or carers of a patient; [75406]

(3) what guidelines are issued relating to the use of the Liverpool Care Pathway. [75407]

Paul Burstow: The Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP) was developed by the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute in Liverpool as an approach to support the delivery of good care in the last days of life. Where the LCP is utilised, senior doctors and nurses involved in the patient's care should agree that death is very likely to be imminent and that being placed on the pathway will be beneficial to the patient. The decision to use the pathway should always involve the patient if possible, and family members if not.

The Department does not collect information centrally on how often the LCP has been used as a possible option for treating patients. The latest information on the LCP is available from the LCP website, which also provides information on how the pathway should be used:

www.mcpcil.org.uk/liverpool-care-pathway/index.htm

Physiotherapy: Arthritis

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve access to specialist physiotherapy services for people with rheumatoid arthritis. [75345]

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the report of the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society and Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, "RA and physiotherapy: a national survey", published in October 2011, if he will take steps to improve early intervention access to physiotherapy for people with rheumatoid arthritis. [75364]

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve access to physiotherapy services for people with rheumatoid arthritis. [75430]

Paul Burstow: The National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society and Chartered Society of Physiotherapy "RA and physiotherapy: a national survey" provides welcome additional information for local services in considering how they might improve services for individuals with rheumatoid arthritis.

There have been a number of initiatives to improve access to physiotherapy and other allied health professional (AHP) services. These include:

The self-referral to physiotherapy pilots which supported the findings from research in Scotland. The pilots identified a number of benefits including earlier presentation and supporting self-care by empowering patients to be more actively involved in managing their condition. Information about this project can be found in the "Self-referral pilots to musculoskeletal physiotherapy and the implications for improving access to other AHP services":

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_116358.pdf

Information from APH Referral to Treatment data collection will enable AHPs, including physiotherapists, to innovate to improve services. The "Allied Health Professional Referral to Treatment guide" can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_115297.pdf

The AHP Service Improvement Project which demonstrated in a range of services, including physiotherapy, how service redesign can improve access and clinical outcomes. Details about this project can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126840

Prescription Drugs: Packaging

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has considered reviewing the regulations of packaging for prescription drugs for the purpose of ensuring that each individual strip or part of strip is packaged and labelled clearly; and if he will make a statement. [75285]

Mr Simon Burns: The requirements for medicines labelling are set out in European and national legislation. Blister strips are intended to be enclosed within outer packaging which is fully labelled with detailed information on the safe and effective use of the product. Each blister strip must be labelled with the name of the product, the expiry date, batch number and the name and address of the marketing authorisation holder.

The Medicines Act consolidation and review of the legislation, including the provisions for the labelling of medicines supplied in blister strips, will be subject to a public consultation.

Thalidomide

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued for the sedative drug Thalidomide in each of the last three years. [75081]

Mr Simon Burns: Thalidomide is listed in the British National Formulary as a possible treatment for leprosy and untreated multiple myeloma. The table shows the actual number of prescription items dispensed in the community for Thalidomide in each of the last three calendar years.

Thalidomide prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England

	Number
2008	464
2009	404
2010	267
Total	1,135

Note:
The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions. It is unknown how many prescription items were dispensed in these areas which means it is unknown what the total number of thalidomide prescriptions were.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he proposes that local authorities will have access to real-time PAYE data for the purpose of calculating council tax benefit. [75423]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* The consultation on localising support for council tax in England from April 2013-14 closed on 14 October. We will be publishing the Government response to the consultation in due course, where further details will be set out, including on any future arrangements for sharing data.

The Government recognise that sharing data will be an important way of maximising convenience and reducing complexity for claimants, while also helping to reduce administrative costs.

Councillors: Teachers

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on teachers at foundation schools standing for election as councillors in the local authority that maintains their school. [75201]

Robert Neill: We are reviewing the provisions of section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972, under which teachers in foundation schools are disqualified from being a member of the local authority that maintains the school, and intend to reach conclusions in due course.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75009]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government lost an average of 6.4 days per staff member in the 2010-11 year. This covers any sickness absence in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

The average working days lost breakdown by civil service pay grade is as follows:

	Average working days lost
Administrative Assistant (AA)	36.6
Administrative Officer (AO)	14.5
Executive Officer (EO)	9.1
Higher Executive Officer (HEO)	5.9
Senior Executive Officer (SEO)	5.6
Grade 7 (G7)	3.9
Grade 6 (G6)	3.4
Senior Civil Service (SCS)	3.3

Please note the figures for administrative assistants are heavily influenced by the low number of staff at this grade, a total of four staff in the Department for 2010-11.

Fire Services: Pensions

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of fire services employees are members of Government-guaranteed pension schemes; and what estimate he has made of changes to this proportion over the next five years. [75095]

Robert Neill: As at the end of 2009-10, fire and rescue authorities in England reported that there were:

24,351 regular firefighter members and 145 optants outs of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992, representing a participation rate of 99.4%

5,045 regular firefighter members (which includes whole-time and part-time regulars but excludes retained) and 392 optants of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006, representing a participation rate of 92.8%, and

6,928 retained firefighter members and 2,833 optants out of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006, representing a participation rate of 71.0%.

The Department does not hold information on the percentage of control staff who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Treasury published an estimate of likely opt-out rates for the unfunded public service pension schemes at the spending review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

which has been scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility. No further estimate has been made on changes to participation rates over the next five years.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of workers who will opt out of fire service pension schemes in the next five years. [75096]

Robert Neill: In his interim report, the right hon. the Lord Hutton of Furness, recommended increasing employee contributions as the cost of public service pensions had increased by a third due to improving longevity and this additional cost had fallen primarily on taxpayers. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's rationale and, at the spending review, announced the intention to implement progressive increases to employee contribution rates in public sector pension schemes, equivalent to 3.2% on average to be phased in from April 2012.

The Treasury published an estimate of likely opt-out rates, which applied to the fire service pension schemes, at the spending review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

which has been scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

To help minimise opt-outs, a statutory consultation for the firefighters' pension schemes, published on 9 September 2011, proposes that any increases in contributions should be progressive and phased, and that there will be protection from increases for lower earners. There will also remain a strong economic rationale for all members to remain in good quality, guaranteed, reformed public service pension schemes.

Homelessness

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the draft national housing policy framework on homelessness. [74065]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* I assume my hon. Friend is referring to the National Planning Policy Framework.

An assessment of the impact of policies in the draft National Planning Policy Framework is set out in the consultation stage impact assessment which was published on 25 July 2011 and placed in the Library of the House.

The impact assessment indicates that local communities could benefit from overall increases in housing and an increase in affordable housing delivered through developer contributions. The wider benefits of more affordable units include less homelessness and overcrowding.

Housing: Fires

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons his Department objects to the undertaking of further research to assess the potential benefits of installing sprinklers in new domestic premises as set out in the Building Regulations (Review) Bill. [75742]

Andrew Stunell: The Government have no objections to the undertaking of research to assess the potential benefits of installing sprinklers in new domestic premises. Officials from my Department have been working with the Chief Fire Officers Association who commissioned the Building Research Establishment to carry out further work in this area. We look forward to seeing the results of this work.

The Government's views on the Building Regulations (Review) Bill were set out during its second reading 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 1019.

Local Government Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to bring forward a money resolution in respect of the Local Government Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill. [74768]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* Following discussions my hon. Friend has had with my officials, we are preparing agreed amendments in the light of which we will as necessary bring forward any money resolution.

Mobile Homes: Licensing

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to consult on measures to improve the licensing regime for mobile park homes. [75264]

Grant Shapps: I announced on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 14-15WS, my proposal to consult on a range of measures to improve the licensing regime which applies to park home and caravan sites so local authorities are better equipped and resourced to tackle problems of poor management in the sector and so better protect the health and safety of residents. I also announced that my plan to consult on improvements to the buying and selling process of park homes to prevent the unacceptable practice of the blocking of lawful sales by unscrupulous site owners and to provide an effective means of redress for residents where this happens. In May my officials and I met with key industry and resident partners, and my officials met separately with local authority partners and representatives of holiday caravan owners, to help inform the consultation and gain a better understanding of the expectations and aspirations of our partners in this sector of the housing market. I plan to publish the consultation shortly.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to support the development of local authority mortgage schemes in England; and if he will make a statement. [75222]

Grant Shapps: I welcome local initiatives to support the provision of mortgages to meet local needs, such as the Blackpool and Warrington mortgage schemes.

My officials have provided advice and contacts to local authorities and private sector partners involved in the development of local authority-backed mortgage schemes, and continue to keep in touch with progress.

Non-domestic Rates

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the potential effect of the Government's proposed reform of business rates on economic growth at local authority level in *(a)* the current spending review period and *(b)* five years beyond the current spending review period. [74125]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The impact of the Government's proposals will depend on a range of factors, including future business rates growth at the local level, the behavioural response to the changes, and the final design of the scheme following consultation. The Government have sought views on their proposals and, on 19 August, published eight technical papers which provide further details on the proposals, together with an interactive calculator. The calculator enables users to explore the possible effects of certain scheme design options based upon their own assumptions about local circumstances.

The proposals incorporate a range of protections to ensure councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy covering a share of disproportionate gain.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the causal link between local authority service delivery and *(a)* economic growth and *(b)* the growth of the business rates tax base in that local authority area. [74701]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Department has not made any assessment of the causal link between local authority service delivery and *(a)* economic growth and *(b)* the growth of the business rates tax base in that local authority area.

Our plans for the local retention of business rates will provide new incentives for councils to use their powers and influence to promote enterprise and business growth.

Planning Permission

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what relative weighting he advises local planning authorities to attach to *(a)* areas of outstanding natural beauty, *(b)* green belt areas and *(c)* flood risk areas, when drawing up local plans; and if he will make a statement. [74061]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The National Planning Policy Framework currently out to public consultation explains that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The proposed policies in the framework when taken as a whole set out the Government's view of what constitutes sustainable development in practice. These policies provide strong protections for areas of outstanding natural beauty and the green belt and are designed to prevent inappropriate building in areas of high flood risk.

Property Development

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the risk of permitted development rights resulting in more extensive developments. [75190]

Robert Neill: Permitted development rights enable certain types of development to be undertaken without the need for specific planning permission where the need to apply for permission would be out of proportion with the impacts of development. They are subject to limitations and conditions to control associated impacts and are set at a level which we believe is appropriate. Local councils can extend or withdraw permitted development rights locally in response to local circumstances and demands. Through correspondence received, the Government monitors the operation of permitted development rights in practice.

Rent

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid to each local authority to meet the costs of payment of *(a)* rental allowance and *(b)* rent rebates in each of the last five years. [73380]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Small Businesses: Empty Property

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of small and medium-sized businesses in (i) in Witham constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England that qualify for business rate relief on empty properties. [74045]

Robert Neill: The Department does not collect data on business rate relief on empty properties split by size of business or at constituency level. However the number of hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief in England for 2011-12 was published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website on 25 May 2011:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/nondomesticrates201112f

The following shows the most recent data available on the number and proportion of hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief for England and Essex:

Number and proportion of hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief as at 31 December 2010

	Number of hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief	*Proportion of hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief*[1] *(Percentage)*
Essex—shire districts only	3,884	9
Essex—including unitary authorities Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock	4,766	9
England	220,631	13

[1] Hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief as proportion of all hereditaments.

Source:
NNDR1 & NNDR1 Supplementary Forms 2011-12

The data are as reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on the annual national non-domestic rates and national non-domestic rates (supplementary) returns.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new *(a)* private and *(b)* social-rented homes were developed in the Peterborough city council area in 2010-11. [75289]

Andrew Stunell: According to the National Statistics on house building, 672 new-build homes were completed in the Peterborough city council area in 2010-11, of which 387 were in the private tenure and 285 were in the housing association tenure. The National Statistics on house building are published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations there are on local authorities to provide *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent facilities for Travellers and Gypsies. [74574]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Government published their draft new planning policy for Traveller sites for consultation in April. The consultation closed in August. We are currently analysing the responses and intend to publish a new policy as soon as possible.

In the meantime, Circular 01/2006 (Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites) and Circular 04/2007 (Planning for Travelling Showpeople) are extant. However, decision makers are entitled to have regard to the fact that it is intended to withdraw them and replace them with the draft policy.

Vacant Land: Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications have been submitted for sites on green belt land in each *(a)* category and *(b)* region in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion were (i) successful at the first stage of application, (ii) rejected at the first stage and taken to appeal and (iii) successful at appeal. [73182]

Robert Neill: Information on planning applications within the green belt submitted to district level local authorities is not available centrally. Statistics published by the Department do show, however, that between 2% and 3% of new dwellings were built in the green belt each year between 2001 and 2010. I would add that the last Government's top-down regional strategies sought to remove green belt protection in 30 towns and cities across the country.

Winter Resilience

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to improve winter resilience for the 2011-12 winter. [75255]

Robert Neill: My Department is working closely with colleagues in the Cabinet Office, Department for Transport, local partners and the voluntary sector to develop robust plans for winter 2011-12. The cross-departmental "Get Ready for Winter" campaign will be launched during the week of 24-30 October supported by information available on:

www.Direct.gov.uk

giving advice to people in the community on how to prepare for winter. This information will be updated throughout the winter period.

DCLG Resilience Advisers are currently gathering information from Local Resilience Fora on their preparations for winter, including public awareness campaigns and drawing attention to the importance of good relationships between Local Highways Authorities and ports. This information will be shared with other local partners across the country and with key Departments to enable good practice and preparedness for winter.

In addition, my Department has agreed to broker mutual aid if approached by Local Highway Authorities or owners of key infrastructure, such as ports, if their salt stocks run unexpectedly low.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 20 October 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creative Industries Council

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) on what dates the Creative Industries Council plans to meet; [75771]

(2) what matters will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Creative Industries Council; and which Secretaries of State plan to attend; [75772]

(3) on how many occasions the Creative Industries Council is expected to meet between October 2011 and January 2012. [75795]

Mr Vaizey: The Creative Industries Council will meet once every six months between July 2011 and July 2012. The next meeting will take place on 24 January 2012, when the council will consider the findings and recommendations of the skills working group. That meeting will be attended by the council's co-chairs: the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt).

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the aims are of each group formed by the Creative Industries Council. [75773]

Mr Vaizey: At the first meeting of the council, members decided to take forward work on access to finance and skills through two time-limited working groups. Detailed objectives for the skills working group can be found via the Skillset website. The access to finance working group are considering evidence on access to finance issues in order to identify recommendations to tackle barriers to growth in this area.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss access to finance for businesses in the creative industries sector in the last 12 months; and whether an action plan was drawn up as a result of such meetings. [75976]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has not met with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), specifically to discuss this issue. However, access to finance has been identified as a key barrier to growth by the Creative Industries Council and was discussed at the first meeting of the council. A working party has now been established under the council to take the issue forward, chaired by Ian Livingstone

Cultural Heritage: Children

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the cultural activities children are exposed to each week; and if he will make a statement. [75927]

Mr Vaizey: The Department assesses children's engagement with cultural activities using the Taking Part Survey. This is a large national survey of children aged five to 15 and adults aged 16+.

In 2010-11, the majority of children (98.6%) had engaged with the arts, 71.6% had visited a heritage site, 75.6% had visited a library and 64.7% had been to a museum in the last 12 months. While the Taking Part Survey records weekly activity, these figures are not routinely published. The latest adult and child findings can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8398.aspx

Departmental Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75703]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not record meetings by the specific categories of organisation you have requested. However, we do publish meetings between Ministers and outside interest groups on the Departmental website at the following link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/category/financial/expenses-and-hospitality/

This information is currently available from May 2010 to March 2011 and is published on a quarterly basis.

Public Libraries: Closures

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many libraries have *(a)* closed and *(b)* had their opening hours reduced in each local authority since May 2010. [75347]

Mr Vaizey: Robust data about the library sector are only published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the initial release of provisional data for 2010-11 is to be published later this month. The Department supplements it by monitoring proposals about changes to library services across England through information gathered via correspondence, media coverage and from relevant bodies such as Arts Council England. Many local authorities are still developing and consulting on proposals and consequently the overall picture is always changing. It is therefore not practical to attempt to provide definitive numbers for libraries that have closed or have reduced their opening hours.

Social Media

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what social media outlets his Department operates. [75840]

Mr Vaizey: The Department operates on the following social media outlets; Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

St George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department gives to organisations celebrating St George's Day. [75949]

John Penrose: The Department funds its arm's length body English Heritage who marked St George's day in 2011 with four separate events that were attended by around 16,000 visitors. This included the annual St George's Festival at Wrest Park, which welcomed 8,500 visitors over three days. We anticipate a similar level of activity for 2012.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Charity Commission: Independent Schools Council

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in the Law Officers' departments have had with (i) the Charity Commission and (ii) the Independent Schools Council since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75461]

The Attorney-General: I have not met with either the Charity Commission or the Independent Schools Council since May 2010. However, as Attorney-General I have a number of important public interest functions in respect of charity, some of which overlap with the regulatory powers of the Charity Commission. In consequence, officials from my office are in regular contact with officials from the Charity Commission. This is also true of those officials in the Treasury Solicitor's Department who provide my office with legal advice on policy and litigation support in charity matters. Those officials have not met with the Independent Schools Council.

I am not aware of any meetings between the Charity Commission or the Independent Schools Council and officials of the Crown Prosecution Service, Serious Fraud Office or HM Crown Prosecution Inspectorate.

A number of lawyers from the Treasury Solicitor's Department are permanently attached to other Government Departments including the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, Cabinet Office and the Department for Education. These Departments have dealings with the Charity Commission in its role as principal regulator of charities. The Department for Education also has dealings with the Independent Schools Council. I have not considered lawyers attached to these or other Departments as officials of the Law Officer Departments for the purposes of this answer.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75698]

The Attorney-General: I meet with a range of organisations and individuals in my ministerial role. Since May 2010 I have not had any meetings specifically with social enterprises or private sector businesses, but I have met with representatives from a number of charities both in my role as Government pro bono champion and as Attorney-General.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74942]

David Mundell: No member of the joint management board of the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate-General has made any expense claims in relation to the work of the board since May 2010.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, if the Electoral Commission will place in the Library a copy of its most recent assessment of the effects of the Government's proposals on electoral registration on levels of registration. [75964]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has now placed in the Library a copy of its formal response to the Government White Paper on individual electoral registration. In it the Commission sets out what it believes needs be done to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register is improved, and what the possible impact of certain aspects of the proposals might be on registration levels. The submission is also available on their website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Adam Werritty

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has met Mr Adam Werritty in the course of his ministerial duties; and, if so, for what purpose. [75969]

Robert Neill: No.

Audit Commission

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to increase the transparency of public body auditors under his proposed new local audit framework. [73020]

Robert Neill: Earlier this year we consulted on our proposals for the new local audit framework which included a number of proposals that will increase transparency, for example, increasing transparency in the way that auditors are appointed. We proposed that local public bodies would appoint their own auditors from a published register of eligible auditors, taking advice from an independent audit committee. The advice of that independent audit committee would be published (giving regard to commercially confidential material). If the local public body did not follow the independent audit committee's advice as to the auditor that should be appointed, it would be required to publish the reasons why it had departed from that advice. The consultation also included proposals around the transparency of the audit itself, for example continuing the requirements to publish accounts and auditors' reports.

We are currently considering the responses to the consultation and will publish our response later this year.

Council Tax

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the level of funding available for local authorities from rateable values arising from the decision to freeze council tax for 2012-13 given an inflation rate of four per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [73679]

Robert Neill: No such estimate has been made.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) the current and (ii) the next financial year; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74342]

Robert Neill: DCLG's estates strategy has seen a significant reduction in the size and cost of the DCLG estate. To build on our achievements over the last year the Department plans to consolidate its operations in Eland House. The project will further improve the Department's space efficiency and will 'free up' further space that can be sub-let, generating income from additional tenancy receipts. The first phase of this project has commenced and will deliver DCLG further tenancy receipts of £1 million per annum from the end of financial year 2012-13. This part of the project is anticipated to cost £75,000.

Over the first half of financial year 2011-12 DCLG was responsible for a series of projects relating to the closure of the Government office for the regions and the regional development agencies.

All but one of these were purely staff moves into:

(a) existing DCLG accommodation making use of existing surplus space from the abolition of the Government office for the regions.

(b) more efficient and right-sized civil-estate accommodation for smaller teams in existing DCLG locations where lease-break opportunities enabled the surrender of larger, less flexible and more expensive ex-Government office for the regions estate.

(c) new DCLG occupations in Sheffield, Truro and Exeter to meet the specific business-needs of the European Regional Development Fund teams in these locations. All three are existing buildings on the civil estate and Sheffield and Exeter were purely staff-moves into 'as is' accommodation.

The new DCLG office at Lysnoweth House, Truro was the only one of these relocations that required 'fit out' work which was done in partnership with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs at a cost of £47,000 with all furniture reused from elsewhere in the DCLG estate.

No other building and refurbishment projects are currently planned in this or financial-year 2012-13.

Note:

Achieving these relocations in Manchester in April 2011, Nottingham July 2011 and Liverpool September 2011 cost DCLG circa £120,000 to complete, but will realise savings of circa £3 million per annum from the start of financial year 2012-13.

Departmental Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74345]

Robert Neill: It is DCLG policy that staff are personally liable for any transport fines. Therefore since 2007 the Department should not have settled any of these fines and there is no identifiable information in our records that indicate any fines have been met by the Department.

Departmental Land

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the maintenance backlog on his Department's estate in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the time required to complete such maintenance. [74198]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has both planned and reactive maintenance arrangements in place across its estate to ensure that the Department does not have a backlog of maintenance.

The DCLG estate is maintained to ensure that it fulfils its leasehold, statutory and sustainable operations obligations. DCLG monitors supplier adherence to contractual obligations through active contract management and through service level agreement and key performance indicator reporting.

Empty Property: Non-domestic Rates

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of ending business rate relief for empty properties on private landlords in the commercial property sector. [73315]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for York Outer (Julian Sturdy) on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 2MC, and to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with representatives of the commercial property sector on business rates on empty properties. [73347]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend my answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 452W. In addition, details of ministerial meetings with external organisations can be found on my Department's website.

Empty Property

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the number of empty properties owned by businesses of each size in *(a)* Witham constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England. [74156]

Robert Neill: The Department does not collect information on the number of empty properties split by business size in *(a)* Witham constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses are paying business rates on empty properties in each planning control class of use categorisation in *(a)* Witham constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England; and what estimate he has made of the sums collected in such rates in the latest period for which figures are available. [74199]

Robert Neill: The Department does not collect data on the amount collected from businesses paying business rates on empty properties. Data are not available at constituency level or split by class of planning use categorisation.

The total estimated number of empty hereditaments as at 31 March 2010, split by local authority, is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1972201.xls

In addition to this, the number of hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief in England for 2011-12 is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/nondomesticrates201112f

From these figures a broad estimate of businesses paying business rates on empty properties can be inferred as shown in the following table:

Inferred estimate of businesses paying business rates on empty properties

	Number of hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief as at 31 December 2010	*Estimated number of empty properties as at 31 March 2011*	*Inferred estimate of businesses paying business rates on empty properties*
Essex—shire districts only	3,884	5,686	1,800
Essex—including unitary authorities Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock	4,766	6,844	2,100
England	220,631	268,990	48,300

Note:
The number of hereditaments in receipt of empty property relief and the estimated number of empty properties are taken from different time periods
Source:
NNDR1 (Supplementary) Form2011-12; NNDR3 Form 2010-11

The data are as reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR3) and NNDR1 (Supplementary) forms.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* gross amount and *(c)* supplier was in respect of each transaction undertaken by the Audit Commission using the Government Procurement Card since April 2011. [73225]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 20 October 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive, who is on leave.

The transaction details requested, concerning the Commission's use of GPC cards, are only currently available relating to statement date from April-August 2011. This information is shown in the attached appendix. Where an entry is marked in red and is a minus figure, this indicates a credit.

A copy of the appendix will be placed in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he is taking to support English local authorities owed money by Icelandic institutions; [75376]

(2) what assistance he is providing to English local authorities in their attempts to retrieve money invested in Icelandic institutions. [75377]

Robert Neill: Local authorities are receiving repayments from the two Icelandic banks in administration in the UK (Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander). For the two failed banks in administration in Iceland, Glitnir and Landsbanki, authorities are directly represented on the Resolution Committees, and are awaiting the decision of the Icelandic Supreme Court on priority status.

Local Government: Pensions

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of local government employees likely to leave the local government pension scheme if the level of contributions is increased. [75346]

Robert Neill: Because the local government pension scheme is funded, it has been possible to design a scheme-specific approach to securing savings by 2014-15 to protect membership levels. A current statutory consultation exercise proposes increases in contribution tariffs in England and Wales involving either a 1% increase, or a 1.5% increase phased in over a three year period, commencing in April 2012, plus accrual rate adjustments for either one or two years.

The terms of the options set out in the consultation proposals, issued on 7 October, specifically reflect the occupational and pay characteristics of the local government workforce and so provide total protection for all members earning less than £15,000, partial protection for those earning up to £21,000 and sets an overall limit of 6% on any increase in contributions.

Non-domestic Rates

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his Department's policy is on the use of the yield from business rates in an area as a general measure of that area's economic *(a)* growth needs and *(b)* performance; [74123]

(2) what his Department's policy is on the yield of business rates paid by businesses in an area being used as a general measure for that area's economic growth needs and economic performance. [74703]

Robert Neill *[holding answers 13 and 17 October 2011]:* The Department does not currently use business rate yield as a measurement in this context.

In relation to our proposals for the local retention of business rates, I would refer the hon. Member to the Technical Paper 5 on my Department's website on tariff, top-up and levy options:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/19695901.pdf

Non-domestic Rates: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 662-4, on local government finance, what modelling his Department has carried out on the likely change to Durham county council's budget under his proposed scheme for localisation of business rates in each of the next five years. [74613]

Robert Neill: The impact of the Government's proposals will depend on a range of factors, including future business rates growth at the local level, the behavioural response to the changes, and the final design of the scheme following consultation. The Government have sought views on its proposals and, on 19 August, published eight technical papers which provide further details on the proposals, together with an interactive calculator. The calculator enables users to explore the possible effects of certain scheme design options based upon their own assumptions about local circumstances.

The proposals incorporate a range of protections to ensure councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy covering a share of disproportionate gain.

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what correspondence he has had with Durham county council on the effects of his proposed scheme for localisation of business rates. [74614]

Robert Neill: The Department has not had any correspondence with Durham county council on the effects of the proposed scheme for the local retention of business rates.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73842]

Robert Neill: The Department has eliminated all pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000 since July 2011.

Redundancy

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have applied for capitalisation directives for redundancy payments; and how much each local authority has applied for. [73241]

Robert Neill: The Government understand that councils will have had to make tough decisions on where they will make savings to help pay off the last Government's budget deficit. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), has been clear that councils should explore all avenues to achieving savings including reducing senior salaries, joining forces to share back office staff and spending smarter.

In relation to requests to capitalise redundancy costs, 54 authorities made requests in the main 2011-12 process. Information on the amounts applied for by each authority is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/19511381.xls

WALES

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many civil servants in her Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74891]

Mr David Jones: No staff have been relocated in the last 12 months.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in her Department. [74892]

Mr David Jones: Wales Office staff are employed either by the Ministry of Justice or the Welsh Government; neither of which offer London weighting or London living allowances.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many contracts her Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if she will make a statement; [75174]

(2) how many contracts her Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if she will make a statement. [75177]

Mr David Jones: None. The Wales Office uses contracts awarded by larger Departments—such as the Ministry of Justice—to maximise buying power and value for money.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many contracts her Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if she will make a statement. [75175]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has not awarded any new contracts since May 2010.

The Wales Office uses contracts awarded by larger Departments—such as the Ministry of Justice—to maximise buying power and value for money.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps her Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to her Department's estate; and if she will make a statement. [75176]

Mr David Jones: The Government take cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber-Security Programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber-security capability.

The Wales Office, as a small Department, obtains its IT services from the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF); these standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

TRANSPORT

Crossrail

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the cost of ensuring that Crossrail is compliant with the Railway (Interoperability) Regulations 2006. [75916]

Mrs Villiers: The Crossrail project is being delivered by Crossrail Ltd on behalf of the Department and its co-sponsor, Transport for London. Crossrail Ltd's cost and risk assessments take account of all of its legal obligations, including compliance with the Railway (Interoperability) Regulations 2006.

Cycling: Accidents

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the number of traffic accidents involving cyclists *(a)* wearing and *(b)* not wearing high-visibility clothing in the latest period for which figures are available. [75866]

Mike Penning: In 2010, there were 17,604 reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cyclist in Great Britain. The number of these accidents involving cyclists wearing or not wearing high-visibility clothing is not collected.

However, under the STATS19 system, the Department collects information on reported injury road accidents where 'cyclist wearing dark clothing at night' was reported as a contributory factor to the accident by the attending police officer. The number of personal injury road accidents with this contributory factor for 2010 in Great Britain can be found in Table RAS50001 (Contributory factor article) of Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: 2010. A copy of this table can be found using the following link:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ras50001.xls

Please note that contributory factors are reported only for injury road accidents where a police officer attended the scene and reported at least one contributory factor. These factors are largely subjective, reflecting the attending officer's opinion at the time of reporting. It is recognised that subsequent inquires could lead to the reporting officer changing his/her opinion.

It is important to note that it may be difficult for a police officer, attending the scene after an accident has occurred, to identify certain contributory factors.

Official Hospitality

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67628]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The departmental policy is not to provide hospitality for staff, including refreshments at staff meetings or staff working lunches. Refreshments are provided exceptionally for meetings with external visitors.

The Department is unable to provide information on how much has been spent incidentally on hospitality for staff since May 2010, as the data is not collected at this level of detail. It is not required for our statutory reporting and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in her Department. [74900]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and consists of a central Department and seven executive agencies as follows:

Highways Agency (HA)
Driver Standards Agency (DSA)
Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency (DVLA)
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA)
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)
Government Car and Dispatch Agency (GCDA)

The estimated total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in the Department for Transport is £1.67 million.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to her Department's estate; and if she will make a statement. [75168]

Norman Baker: The Government take cyber security very seriously and this issue has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber-Security programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and others to improve the UK's cyber security capability.

The Department for Transport routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF). These standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

As I am sure the hon. Member will recognise, it is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the future of local DVLA offices; and if she will make a statement. [73874]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* Since 1 June, the Department has received 11 letters concerning the future of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's local offices.

No decisions on the way forward have yet been taken. Any proposals involving changes to the way face to face services are operated would be the subject of discussion with stakeholders.

Driving under Influence: Drugs

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to raise awareness of the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs. [75542]

Mike Penning: The Department has run a number of campaigns on the dangers of drug driving in the past and is currently developing its future marketing plans. As part of the THINK! road safety campaign, there is a website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/think/drugdrive/

which raises awareness of the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs including legal and personal consequences, as well as how drugs impair driving. Communication materials can be downloaded from the website or ordered separately for use by road safety professionals and teachers.

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations she has received on proposals to *(a)* introduce roadside drug testing devices and *(b)* increase sentences on people found guilty of driving whilst under the influence of drugs; [75543]

(2) if she will meet the family of Lillian Groves to discuss their campaign to introduce roadside drug testing devices and increase sentences on people found guilty of driving whilst under the influence of drugs. [75544]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not received any representations related to drug driving. I have received a number of representations on proposals to introducing drink and drug testing devices. The Government in their response to the North review committed to introduce a range of measures to combat drug driving including approving preliminary drug testing equipment initially in the police station and at the roadside as soon as possible.

I will be happy to meet the family of Lillian Groves, to discuss their proposals.

Driving: Licensing

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reviews of a driver's licence were initiated by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency due to receiving information from a third party concerning a present licence holder's competence. [75694]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency acts on third party notifications when a person's ability to drive safely has been called into question due to a medical condition. The latest figures available show that, in 2010, the DVLA carried out investigations into 10,740 drivers' records as a result of receiving such notifications.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effects of the proposed increase in the motorway speed limit on the level of *(a)* slight injuries, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* fatalities occurring as a result of accidents on motorways. [75876]

Mike Penning: The potential effects on casualties will be included in the assessment of all the principal effects of raising the national speed limit on motorways and we will include the figures as part of the documentation for the consultation planned for later this year.

Roads: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will visit an accident and emergency department to discuss with medical staff the extent of injuries caused in crashes involving vehicles driven at speed. [75874]

Mike Penning: I am well aware of the extent of injuries that can occur. The Department for Transport is committed to a raft of measures to improve road safety, which are set out in the framework published in May 2011: our vision is to ensure that Britain remains a world leader on road safety.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the *(a)* cost and *(b)* effect on privacy and liberty of the European Commission's recent recommendation on eCall. [75909]

Mike Penning: There have been no recent discussions between the Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening) and her EU counterparts on the European Commission's recent Recommendation on eCall.

An Explanatory Memorandum on the Commission's Recommendation on eCall was laid before Parliament on 28 September.

Roads: Safety

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contribution she expects the UK to make to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020; and if she will make a statement. [75231]

Mike Penning: The UK's contribution to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-20 was set out in the Strategic Framework for Road Safety launched on 11 May 2011 as part of our launch of the Decade of Action. The UK is a world leader in road safety and the framework and associated actions demonstrate our commitment to contribute to the further reduction in road deaths envisaged globally by the UN.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much direct funding her Department has allocated to each civil society organisation in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if she will make a statement. [74816]

Norman Baker: I am afraid that the information requested is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Trams: Edinburgh

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she last met the Scottish First Minister to discuss the Edinburgh tram project. [75216]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Edinburgh tram project is a devolved matter for the Scottish Government. The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not met the Scottish First Minister to discuss this project.

DEFENCE

Army Cadet Force: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many cadets were enrolled in the Kent Army Cadet Force in each of the last five years; [75968]

(2) how much funding per cadet his Department provided to the Kent Army Cadet Force in each of the last five years. [75970]

Mr Robathan: The number of cadets who have enrolled annually in and the total number of cadets, based on a snapshot position as at 1 September 2011, who were members of the Kent Army Cadet Force (ACF) in each of the last five calendar years are shown in the following table.

	Number enrolled annually	*Total number of cadets as at 1 September 2011*
2006	192	1,043
2007	278	1,034
2008	337	919
2009	220	1,060
2010	280	1,013

Details of the funding provided to the Kent ACF from the Ministry of Defence over the past five financial years are shown in the following table.

	Funding (£)
2007-08	455,839.08
2008-09	554,904.00
2009-10	442,750.00
2010-11	379,555.00
2011 (to date)	80,776.00

These figures represent funding for cadet activities such as ammunition, rations, transport, paid training days and travel and subsistence. This does not cover the cost of salaries and pensions of permanent staff employed in the ACF, nor other support costs, such as buildings maintenance, which are accounted for centrally.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many military assistants his Department has employed in each year since 2004; [75492]

(2) how much each military assistant received in salaries and benefits in each year since 2004. [75496]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 October 2011]*: Historical data on the number of military assistants (MAs) employed are not available without incurring disproportionate cost as this would require an interrogation of individual records. However, there are 119 MAs, or equivalent, currently in post working to personnel at two star level or above.

The salary paid to individual MAs cannot be provided without an interrogation of individual records which would incur disproportionate cost. Every individual is paid in respect of their rank but also in respect of their seniority, personal skills and training which would require each individual's salary to be researched. There are no payable benefits open to MAs or the equivalent, although some personnel may accrue allowances due to their personal circumstances or trade/specialty. However the current salary ranges for those ranks who undertake MA roles are given in the following table as an indication of salaries received.

Rank	*Minimum*	£ *Maximum*
Officer Level		
OF 6—Cdre/Brig/Air Cdre	97,030.20	100,963.56
OF5—Capt/Col/Gp Capt	81,310.44	89,408.28
OF4—Cdr/LtCol/WgCdr	67,031.64	77,617.20
OF3—Lt Cdr/Maj/Sqn Ldr	47,760.48	57,199.56
OF2—Lt/Capt/Flt Lt	37,915.92	45,090.48

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75127]

Peter Luff: The Government values the flexibility, responsiveness and innovation that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) bring and are taking action to increase the opportunities for such businesses to bid for Defence contracts.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s contract records distinguish between SMEs—as defined by the European Commission—and larger enterprises, but not between the individual categories of 'small' and 'medium' sized enterprises. Also, our assessments of the number and value of contracts with SMEs are carried out annually and relate to periods running to the end of March. Monthly analysis separately distinguishing the three categories could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

During the 12 months to the end of March 2011, the MOD awarded approximately 2,500 direct contracts to SMEs, with a total value in the region of £950 million. We estimate that, in the same period, approximately 3,550 direct contracts were awarded to large businesses, with a total value of approximately £6,280 million—values are rounded to the nearest £10 million.

These figures, produced by a sampling exercise, relate to contracts administered through our central system which excludes purchases made through the Government procurement card and miscellaneous transactions. It is important to emphasise that they also exclude subcontracts placed with SMEs by our prime contractors and their supply chains, which are extensive and include a high proportion of SMEs.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fire missions have been undertaken by Royal Navy warships against Libya land maritime targets in Operation Ellamy to date; and how many of these targets were *(a)* detected and *(b)* fire adjusted onto target by (i) United States Navy P-3 Orion aircraft, (ii) Canadian P-140 and (iii) US Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. [74138]

Nick Harvey: From the beginning of the current operations in Libya up to 6 October 2011, the Royal Navy has undertaken naval gunfire support on 17 occasions.

UK Forces are operating as part of a NATO operation. As part of this multilateral mission individual nations have provided various capabilities requested by NATO. Therefore is it entirely appropriate that nations will co-operate when undertaking these operations.

I am withholding the information on which capabilities have provided assistance to naval gunfire support missions as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

NATO

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to learn lessons from Operation Unified Protector *(a)* in general and *(b)* in relation to the capacity of the UK and other European NATO members to provide (i) air-to-air refuelling, (ii) intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft and (iii) sufficient stocks of precision-guided missiles. [74844]

Nick Harvey: The National Security Council is conducting a cross-Whitehall Lessons Identified exercise into operations in Libya. The Ministry of Defence routinely conducts lessons learned exercises as part of military operations. The lessons learned process for Operation Unified Protector will cover each of the areas mentioned.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Pollution

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will discuss with her New Zealand counterpart the likely environmental effects of the recent accident near the Astrolabe Reef involving a Liberian-flagged ship. [74808]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA's role in responding to marine pollution emergencies is described in the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations, which is maintained by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Responses to maritime incidents need to be proportionate. Regional or national responses to maritime incidents involve the establishment of an Environment Group, which advises on environmental impacts and may initiate the collection of real time environmental data. If a marine pollution incident is expected to have a significant impact on the marine environment or the shoreline, arrangements are made to monitor and assess the impact in the longer term.

Since the New Zealand oil spill does not affect UK shorelines and the cargo vessel involved is not UK registered, we have no plans at this stage to intervene.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73837]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not use pre-qualification questionnaires for tenders under the OJEU threshold (£100,000).

Additional statement follows from CEFAS:

"Since the forming of the Coalition Government and the planned reduction in PQQ's for requirements under £100k, Cefas have not issued any PQQ's. To further support this reduction in PQQ's, Cefas utilises wherever possible existing Government frameworks for its requirements under (and over) £100k."

Fisheries

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the Scottish fishing industry. [75340]

Richard Benyon: Most recently, I met with representatives of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation to discuss a range of issues including Common Fisheries Policy reform and the forthcoming negotiations for 2012 total allowable catches. In my role as UK Fisheries Minister, I am committed to ensuring that Scottish fishing interests are taken into account and that any decisions affecting the fishing industry balance the interests of the UK as a whole.

National Park Authorities

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) who will be responsible for funding the pilot project for direct elections of representatives to the Peak District National Park Authority; [73423]

(2) what criteria were used to select the Peak District National Park as the pilot for the direct election of representatives to National Park Authorities. [73422]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA officials are consulting with both the Peak District and New Forest National Park Authorities on the procedural arrangements for direct elections, including the costs.

In its response to the public consultation, the New Forest National Park Authority has indicated willingness to trial direct elections. In order to test the concept properly, the Government felt it was important to run the trial in at least two areas and the Peak District has characteristics that the New Forest lacks. These include the fact that it is a long established National Park with a larger membership and a greater number of, and more complex, local government structures.

National Watersure Scheme

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to make an announcement on funding for the National Watersure scheme. [72419]

Richard Benyon: In the 2011 Budget the Government committed public expenditure to supporting households that face water affordability pressures and households in areas with particularly high water charges. We are currently finalising the decision on how best to meet this commitment. Our consultation on affordability closed in June and we are reviewing responses, which will inform the content of the Water White Paper, to be published shortly. We will be setting out the way forward on Watersure and general affordability issues later this year.

Natural Gas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will direct the Environment Agency to consider the implications of the *(a)* geology and *(b)* redundant mine-workings of the South Wales coalfields for shale gas exploration and hydraulic fracturing before the grant of any licence for exploitation or exploration. [74024]

Richard Benyon: This is a devolved issue. It is for the Welsh Assembly Government to direct Environment Agency Wales on the points raised.

Whales: Imports

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what representations she has made to the government of Iceland on the import of whale products into the UK; [75381]

(2) what evidence she has received of the import of illegal food products including whale meat and whale fins from Iceland. [75382]

Richard Benyon: The UK firmly supports the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) restrictions on international trade in whale meat and whale products. In the EU, we prohibit international trade in all whale meat and products apart from in exceptional circumstances.

I am not aware of any evidence of imports of such food products to the UK.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the effects of experiencing an extended period outside the labour market on the long-term integration into UK society of asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement. [70723]

Damian Green: None. We do not believe that asylum seekers should have access to the labour market as it would become a pull factor and encourage more applications in the UK. The exception is when asylum seekers have waited for more than 12 months for an initial decision on their application, when they can seek permission to work, in line with the recent court ruling.

Civil Disorder

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that police are able to deal with serious public order offences in the future. [70224]

Nick Herbert: The Government will always ensure that police have the tools and powers that they need to maintain order on our streets and discussions are taking place with chief constables on an ongoing basis. The Prime Minister has already announced that extra powers will be given to police regarding the removal of face coverings and the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to look at the disorder, and for its findings to inform and support police guidance, tactics and public order policing resources. In addition the Home Office will be looking into whether curfew powers need to be extended.

There is significant evidence that social media played a part in the recent riots in London and other English cities. The Secretary of State has met with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Metropolitan police and social media industry representatives to consider whether and how they can stop people communicating via these websites and services when it is known that they are plotting violence, disorder and criminality. They also considered what action can be taken to prevent access to those services by customers identified as perpetrators of disorder or other criminal action. The Home Office will continue to take this work forward in partnership with the police and social media industry.

Crime: Victims

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of victims of crime who have reported crimes to the police have been kept informed of the progress of the police investigation in each of the last two years. [73920]

Nick Herbert: The latest available information comes from the British Crime Survey (BCS) and relates to 2008-09. BCS interviews for 2008-09 show that 55% of victims of crime said that they had been kept well informed of the progress of the police investigation.

Departmental Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many transport-related fines her Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74381]

Damian Green: Neither the Home Office nor the UK Borders Agency meets the costs of traffic fines as these are considered the personal liability of the member of staff who incurred them.

The Identity and Passport Service incurred seven fixed penalty notices (parking fines) in the last five years at a total cost of £400. Two were incurred in 2007-08 at a cost of £120, three in 2008-09 at a cost of £180 and two in 2010-11 at a cost of £100.

These fines were incurred by individuals in the course of their official duties, providing a visa delivery/collection service to embassies within central London.

The Criminal Records Bureau have not owned or operated any vehicles in the last five years and have therefore not incurred any such costs.

Training

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have undertaken since 12 May 2010. [67674]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Home Office Ministers have undertaken the following training since May 2010:

Home Secretary

No training

Baroness Browning

Finance workshop

Ministerial learning and development induction workshop

Nick Herbert

Ministerial learning and development induction workshop

Damian Green

Ministerial learning and development induction workshop

James Brokenshire

Bill training

Select Committee training

Lynne Featherstone

Ministerial learning and development induction workshop

Media and presentation training.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75519]

Damian Green: The table gives the Home Office (including all agencies) spend on first class travel since May 2010. All figures are shown to the nearest £1,000.

Differentiations in class of travel by boat are not recorded within Home Office Management Information.

Since May 2010 the Home Office (including all agencies) has spent the following on first class travel:

	£
(a) Air	0
(b) Boat	n/a
(c) Train	51,000

Note:

All figures are shown to the nearest £000.

Economic Crime Unit

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England and Wales *(a)* had a specialist Economic Crime Unit in March 2010 and *(b)* are expected to have a specialist Economic Crime Unit in March 2012. [70752]

Nick Herbert: It is for chief constables and police authorities to decide how to allocate resources within their police forces to ensure that they have the capacity and capability to investigate economic crime. If required they also have access to specialist regional resources for support on all types of serious and organised crime.

The Home Office continues to fund the City of London police with £5.1 million in 2012-13 to act as the lead force for tackling economic crime and to operate the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau which collates and distributes intelligence on economic crime to all police forces.

We have set out how we will increase the ability to tackle economic crime with the creation of the Economic Crime Command in the National Crime Agency which will;

> improve the sharing and use of intelligence about economic crime;
>
> increase the capacity and effectiveness of the law enforcement response; and
>
> increase activity on prevention, including using intelligence and information to provide real-time advice on how businesses and individuals can protect themselves.

Ahead of the Economic Crime Command being established, the Economic Crime Coordination Board, which is now in place, will drive forward improvements in how economic crime is tackled in the UK.

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the availability of illegal firearms. [74474]

Nick Herbert: The UK has some of the toughest firearms laws in the world. As we set out in the Government's response to the Home Affairs Committee report on Firearms Control, published on 29 September 2011, we are currently considering whether it is necessary and proportionate to tighten the legislation still further in respect of the criminal supply and importation of firearms.

Illegal Immigrants

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK citizens attempting to enter the UK illegally or clandestinely were apprehended at *(a)* the Port of Dover and *(b)* the Port of Calais in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [75830]

Damian Green: The number of non-UK citizens apprehended by the UK Border Agency and its French counterparts attempting to enter the UK illegally at Calais, and the numbers of interceptions at the port of Dover, for the specified years are as follows:

	Detections		
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Calais	21,881	13,847	5,345
Dover[1]	554	383	328

[1] Supplied by Local Immigration Team Kent, Immigration Group.

Note:

Locally collated management information statistics subject to the national protocol.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals were found to be working illegally in Birmingham Ladywood constituency in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what steps her Department has taken in respect of such findings. [74513]

Damian Green: The records kept by the UK Border Agency show that during illegal working visits in the UK from September 2010 to August 2011 18,329 individuals were encountered. This figure includes those arrested. It is not possible to disaggregate these figures by constituency or county without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Where individuals are found to be working illegally a decision on any further action is made on a case by case basis. A civil penalty of up to £10,000 per illegal worker may be imposed on employers found to be employing illegal workers.

The figures provided are sourced from management information tools; they are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols and are subject to change.

Immigration

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on skills training for the UK workforce to meet future business demands which may arise from a reduction in immigration. [73244]

Damian Green: This subject is a key part of the Government's proposals for reducing net migration. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), meets regularly with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), as do I with other Ministers in his Department. This subject has also been discussed at Cabinet level and other cross-Whitehall Ministerial meetings.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has considered requesting that the Ministry of Defence Police should be deployed to support the territorial police forces. [71991]

Nick Herbert: The Ministry of Defence Police routinely provides security for key defence sites.

Protocols are in place between the Ministry of Defence Police and the police forces in England and Wales to support their operations, where Defence security priorities allow. The Ministry of Defence Police provides mutual aid to local police forces, particularly on specific police service operations, such as riots and demonstrations. For example, it provided mutual aid in London and York during the recent public disorder.

Offensive Weapons: Sales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of business regarding the sale of knives. [74477]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not had any recent discussions with representatives of retail businesses on the sale of knives. However, we expect all retailers to provide appropriate training and support to staff on the sale of knives and to clearly display to the public signs stating that knives are not for sale to people under the age of 18.

Police

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the law following the outcome of DPP v Oram to ensure respect for police officers acting in the course of their duty. [74664]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Government have launched a consultation which is seeking views on whether section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 should be amended.

Police Federation of England and Wales

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met the Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales. [73771]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), last met the Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales on 10 October 2011.

Police Federation of England and Wales: Civil Disorder

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations she received from the Police Federation on the risk of public disorder occurring in the last 12 months. [74511]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has regular discussions with the Police Federation on a wide range of issues.

Police: Manpower

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each police authority area on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these in each area have had MAST public order training to each level. [74706]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The available information shows the number of police officers in England and Wales, by police force area as at 31 March 2011 (full-time equivalent). This is shown in the following table.

Information on the number of police officers who have received MAST public order training to each level is not collected centrally by the Home Office. Decisions on MAST training are for chief constables to take locally in conjunction with their police authority and, from November 2012, their elected police and crime commissioners (PCCs).

Police officer strength in England and Wales by police force area on 31 March 2011

Police force	*All officers (FTE)*[1]
Avon and Somerset	3,210
Bedfordshire	1,214
Cambridgeshire	1,398
Cheshire	2,079
Cleveland	1,655
Cumbria	1,180
Derbyshire	2,021
Devon and Cornwall	3,436
Dorset	1,452
Durham	1,431
Essex	3,577
Gloucestershire	1,262
Greater Manchester	7,791
Hampshire	3,658
Hertfordshire	2,048
Humberside	1,952
Kent	3,668
Lancashire	3,448
Leicestershire	2,211
Lincolnshire	1,202
London, City of	878
Merseyside	4,297
Metropolitan police	32,441
Norfolk	1,598
Northamptonshire	1,306
Northumbria	4,102
North Yorkshire	1,458
Nottinghamshire	2,319
South Yorkshire	2,888
Staffordshire	2,079
Suffolk	1,244
Surrey	1,885
Sussex	3,102
Thames Valley	4,375
Warwickshire	919
West Mercia	2,251
West Midlands	8,149
West Yorkshire	5,536
Wiltshire	1,099
Dyfed-Powys	1,157
Gwent	1,501
North Wales	1,530
South Wales	3,100
Total 43 forces	139,110

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Pensions

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she gave to undertaking a public consultation on the change in the basis for indexation of police pensions from the retail prices index to the consumer prices index. [74083]

Nick Herbert: The change in indexation was a result of the announcement in the Budget on 22 June 2010 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), that from April 2011 the consumer prices index would be used for the indexation of benefits, tax credits and public service pensions (including police pensions). This was confirmed in the Pensions Increase (Review) Order 2011 made on 16 March 2011 by the Treasury.

The annual increase of public service pensions is governed by the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971, rather than the legislation that provides for police pensions. There has been no consideration of consultation concerning the basis for indexation as it applies specifically to police pensions.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police station inquiry officers are eligible to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal; and what criteria are used to assess eligibility for the award of the medal. [74056]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* Members of the emergency services eligible for the medal are those that are called to attend emergencies, potentially placing themselves in danger or who face challenging situations in order to keep the public safe. The criterion for the medal has been agreed across Government Departments and has received Royal Assent.

Vetting: Appeals

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to introduce a right of appeal to an independent body in respect of the content of Criminal Records Bureau checks; and if she will make a statement. [74519]

Damian Green: The Protection of Freedoms Bill, currently before Parliament, would enable those seeking Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks to apply to the independent monitor if they believed that information provided by the police on an enhanced criminal record certificate was irrelevant or ought not to have been included.

HEALTH

Abortion

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for his Department's planned consultation on abortion policy. [75535]

Anne Milton: The Department will carry out a public consultation on independent abortion counselling. We are currently developing proposals for consultation including the timetable for introduction. We intend to work with experts in the field and other interested parties to develop these proposals.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating people with alcohol-related health problems in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [75432]

Anne Milton: The Department has made no estimates of the cost to the national health service of treating people with alcohol-related health problems in Ashfield constituency and Nottinghamshire. We have previously estimated the cost to the NHS of treating people with alcohol-related health problems in England at about £2.7 billion per year. The Department published this estimate in 'The cost of alcohol harm to the NHS in England' in July 2008, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

Arthritis: Health Services

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people with rheumatoid arthritis received treatment by a consultant-led multidisciplinary team that included physiotherapy in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [75693]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Cancer: Screening

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure co-ordination between Public Health England, local authorities and the NHS on the early diagnosis of cancer following the implementation of his planned reforms to the NHS. [75536]

Anne Milton: The Department is in discussion with local government, the national health service, the voluntary and community sector and others to finalise the operational design of the new public health system. This includes publishing further details of the new public health leadership role for local authorities and the operating model for Public Health England.

These documents will set out where the best place for commissioning responsibility should rest for campaigns around early diagnosis.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75709]

Anne Milton: Details of all ministerial meetings with external parties are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. The latest data up to the end of March 2011 can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartment Leaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

Doctors: Foreign Nationals

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-UK doctors and consultants were working in the NHS in the last year for which figures are available. [75937]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally. However, all doctors, including those in training, must be registered with the General Medical Council and they would be better placed to provide this information.

Health Visitors

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many health visitors have sought training in *(a)* children's wellbeing, *(b)* children's emotional development, *(c)* parenting and *(d)* the importance of attachment between parent and child as part of their continuous professional development in each of the last five years; [75506]

(2) what guidance and training is provided to health visitors on children's emotional development, wellbeing, attachment and parenting; and if he will make a statement. [75509]

Anne Milton: This information is not held centrally.

Where aggregation of data relating to the professional development of health visitors does take place, it would be carried out at local level by primary care trusts.

The National Health Visitor Programme has identified the need to educate the new entrants to the profession to deliver the new health visiting services. Children's emotional development, wellbeing, attachment and parenting are recommended areas of theory, knowledge and skills for practice, set out in the Department's "Educating Health Visitors for a Transformed Service" Published by Department of Health, August 2011 document and included in the health visitor education programme.

A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

The Health Visitor Programme has also identified the need to develop and refresh the current workforce to provide leadership in delivery of the new service and to have the opportunity to extend and refresh clinical practice skills through national and local programmes. The Professional Mobilization work stream has provided direct Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and support to local services to deliver CPD.

Clinical leaders estimate around 2,000 health visitors have been engaged in nationally run and/or supported events, including three events run in partnership with the NHS Institute. All programme evaluations have aimed to provide the strategic and leadership framework and to promote access to programmes such as:

a number of e-learning modules that support delivery of the Healthy Child Programme that are accessible to health visitors online;

a development programme for the health visitor early implementer sites encompassing leadership training, new models of practice, general and bespoke support; and

a 'Building Community Capacity' project tested by health visitors and school nurses in the early implementer sites, with national roll-out next year.

All events have evaluated very well, with health visitors being engaged with the developments. Additionally, professional organisations have provided learning opportunities through events and clinical articles in journals.

Guidance on appropriate training and development is available locally in provider organisations and will often form the basis of appraisal discussions.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which early implementer health visiting sites were carrying out the practice of corporate working in the latest period for which figures are available; [75507]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implementation and effectiveness of corporate working undertaken by early implementer health visiting sites; and if he will make a statement; [75508]

Anne Milton: All services are moving towards delivery of the new health visiting service vision and offer to families spearheaded by the early implementer sites. The actual arrangements for deployment of health visitors is a matter for local leadership based on meeting local health needs. This may include a range of approaches including primary care attachment, geographic placement and corporate caseload. All local arrangements must address key issues of professional relationships with families, working with local communities and optimising working arrangements with other local providers of children and family.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to incorporate the advice contained in "Educating Health Visitors for a Transformed Service" into the continuous professional development of health visitors; and if he will make a statement. [75510]

Anne Milton: "Educating Health Visitors for a Transformed Service"[1] provides guidance for education commissioners and higher education institutions (HEIs), to assist with alignment of health visiting courses with the new service vision for health visiting as set out in the "Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15: A Call to Action". Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

The guidance was produced by the Department, in collaboration with partners, including the Council of Deans, the United Kingdom Standing Conference, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association, and higher education commissioners and institutions. It supports the NMC standards, and serves as a useful framework for education providers seeking to reflect the new vision in their courses.

The Department recommends that commissioners and higher education institutions consider the range of topics provided by the guidance when reviewing their programmes to ensure that health visitors are equipped with appropriate theory, knowledge and skills to deliver the new service on completion of training. The guidance specifically prompts both HEIs and commissioners to focus on how they will work closely with community practice teachers and mentors in supporting students. It also suggests close working with strategic health authorities, to identify and increase the range of high quality clinical placements.

Guidance on appropriate training and development is available locally in provider organisations and will often forming the basis of appraisal discussions.

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[1] Published by Department of Health, August 2011

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had with the NHS Business Services Authority on its research report into the supply of urology and stoma products. [75450]

Anne Milton: The Department has not had any recent discussions with the NHS Business Services Authority in relation to its report which is still in preparation.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of Part IX of the Drug Tariff on patient choice of urology and stoma products; [75451]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the price variation in primary care for urology and stoma products. [75452]

Anne Milton: We have made no assessment of the effect of Part IX of the Drug Tariff on patient choice of urology and stoma products.

We have made no assessment of price variation in primary care for urology and stoma products. For national health service prescriptions dispensed in primary care dispensing contractors are reimbursed according to the Drug Tariff. The Drug Tariff sets out Secretary of State determinations, which apply nationally of the amounts pharmacy and appliance contractors will be paid for dispensing NHS prescriptions.

NHS Blood and Transplant

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the future of the NHS Blood and Transplant Service; and if he will make a statement [75550]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement given on 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 61-62WS.

NHS: Privatisation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1011W, on health services: privatisation, what definition of privatisation his Department uses. [75337]

Anne Milton: The answer given by the Minister of State, Department of Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns), on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1011W, confirmed that the Government are not pursuing a policy of privatisation of health care providers whereby national health service organisations would be transferred from public to private ownership and control.

NHS: Procurement

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on legal, accounting and other advisory fees when going through tendering processes in each of the last three years. [75796]

Anne Milton: This information is not held centrally. This information will be held by individual national health service bodies.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether his planned reforms of the health service will result in the fragmentation of NHS services; and if he will make a statement. [75338]

Anne Milton: We do not consider that the Health and Social Care Bill will lead to the fragmentation of NHS services.

The Bill would place a duty on clinical commissioning groups and the NHS Commissioning Board in relation to securing integrated services where they benefit patients. Monitor would also be required to enable the delivery of integrated services.

Commissioners will continue to be responsible for securing healthcare services for their local populations and will be empowered to take decisions on how services will be bundled together. This will include commissioning integrated services to deliver better outcomes for patients. Nothing in the Bill would force commissioners to unbundle or fragment services against the best interests of patients.

Nurses: Foreign Workers

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure testing of the language and competence of nurses who have trained within the European Economic Area and Switzerland. [75579]

Anne Milton: Systematic testing of the language knowledge of health care professionals at the point of registration is contrary to European law. However, nurses work in an employed environment and their employers can and should ensure that any nurse appointed is able and competent to carry out their duties effectively. This must include their overall competency for the role and more specifically their ability to communicate to the required standard.

The Department recognises that there are widespread concerns about this issue, and we are in discussions with the Nursing and Midwifery Council about whether any steps can be taken to strengthen local checks on nurses.

Orthopaedics: Footwear

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have received treatment involving orthopaedic shoes in each of the last five years. [75617]

Anne Milton: Information about orthopaedic footwear is not collected centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly including the provision of orthopaedic footwear.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Day Care

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department is providing to low-income parents to assist with child care costs. [75552]

Maria Miller: Jobcentre Plus advisers help parents identify and access appropriate child care provision in their area. Partnership managers work with local authorities to identify gaps in provision. The costs of child care are paid by Jobcentre Plus for parent claimants on Jobcentre Plus work and training programmes.

Help with child care costs for working parents is currently provided via working tax credits. Families are able to receive support for child care costs of 70% up to a maximum of £175 for one child or £300 for two or more children per week. From 2013 this support will be paid through the universal credit. Currently, child care support is only available for people who work 16 hours a week or more, but under universal credit this requirement will be removed.

Child Maintenance

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government Ministers on providing additional resources for mediation services in Scotland to support separating parents to reach voluntary arrangements for child maintenance should the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill on child maintenance become law. [71509]

Maria Miller: The Government recognise that family support is a devolved matter and we are working closely with Scottish Government colleagues to look at the implications for family support services in Scotland.

Our proposals for family support outlined in the Green Paper are about making it easier for families to access the support that currently exists and that many organisations offer separating and separated parents. However this system of support is seen by some families as complicated to navigate and we need to better understand how best and what aspects of this support to co-ordinate.

We will continue to work closely with other Government Departments, including the Department for Education, the Ministry for Justice and the Department of Health. We are also working to ensure that this work is aligned with that of the Family Justice Review.

As I clarified at the Work and Pensions Select Committee on 15 June, mediation is only one approach that we are exploring. Mediation can be very expensive to administer and may not be the most appropriate support for all families. Families require differing support depending on their circumstances, and that is why we are already working with the voluntary and community sector in order to understand what forms of existing support are most effective in helping parents work collaboratively to establish enduring co-parenting arrangements.

In addition, an expert Steering Group has been established to help us to consider the most appropriate delivery model at local and national level in order to support consistency of provision across local areas, while also evaluating the resources that are already in place to ensure the system as a whole functions to direct parents to the support they need.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what costs have been included in the expected average administrative costs for processing an application under the new statutory child maintenance system. [73321]

Maria Miller: The Government are considering a range of options for the new child maintenance scheme and the cost implications will be determined by the option chosen.

However, once the new scheme has been live for a significant period, the cost of processing an application could stabilise at around £220.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* research and *(b)* analysis was undertaken by his Department on the effect different levels of charges levied on parents with care and non-resident parents under the new statutory child maintenance system would have on (i) the behaviour of non-resident parents and (ii) the behaviour of parents with care; and whether he plans to publish the findings of such research and analysis. [73322]

Maria Miller: The Government are considering a range of options on charging, and further details will be published when the Government consult on the draft regulations. Impact assessments accompanying the draft regulations will set out the estimated effects on volumes and individuals who will be affected by the proposed new charges.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* start-up and *(b)* ongoing administrative costs arising from (i) charging and collection of application fees from parents with care, (ii) charging and collection of ongoing fees from parents with care using the Commission's collection service and (iii) the charging and collection of ongoing fees from non-resident parents where the Commission's collection service is used. [73323]

Maria Miller: The costs associated with the introduction of charging for users of the statutory maintenance service are included within the overall cost of developing the new statutory scheme, and it is not possible to isolate these costs separately. Similarly, it is not possible to isolate the ongoing costs of charging as charging will be included as an intrinsic part of the processes of the new scheme.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for charges for low-income parents using the new statutory child maintenance system following the introduction of universal credit. [73335]

Maria Miller: The detailed interactions between the current and future child maintenance schemes and universal credit are in the process of being developed. As part of this, we are specifically considering how receipt of universal credit will interrelate to the proposed charges for parents using the future child maintenance scheme.

The Government are considering a range of options on charging and further details will be published when the Government consult on the draft regulations.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the total administrative costs of a child maintenance case under the new statutory child maintenance system over the period an average case is expected to last; [73336]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average annual cost of a child maintenance case under the new statutory child maintenance system in *(a)* the year when an application is first made and *(b)* each subsequent year. [73337]

Maria Miller: The Government are considering a range of options for the new child maintenance scheme and further details will be published when the Government consult in due course. At this time we will be able to provide more information on the cost implications of the proposals.

The approximate annual cost of maintaining a case is expected to reduce with the introduction of the new scheme. Analysis of the current scheme shows that an average case can be expected to last nine years.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75719]

Chris Grayling: Details of meetings held between DWP Ministers and outside organisations is published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ministers-meetings-overseas.shtml

Information for quarters April 2011 to June 2011 and July 2011 to September 2011 is being collated and will be published in due course.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK were in receipt of disability living allowance in each year since its inception; [72992]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK were in receipt of disability living allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; [73376]

(3) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK were in receipt of disability living allowance including the (i) higher and (ii) lower rate mobility component in each year since its inception; [73377]

(4) how many recipients of disability living allowance in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK have been interviewed and had their benefits reassessed since May 2010; and how many (i) were awarded a lower level of benefit, (ii) lost all of their allowance and (iii) were successful on appeal. [72993]

Maria Miller: The information requested on numbers of disability living allowance recipients is contained in the following table.

Disability living allowance (DLA) recipients by mobility award type: Timeseries

	Total	*Higher mobility rate*	*Lower mobility rate*	*Nil mobility rate*
Jarrow parliamentary constituency				
February 1997	4,100	3,100	600	[1]500
February 1998	4,500	3,300	800	[1]400
February 1999	4,400	3,100	800	[1]500
February 2000	4,300	3,100	800	[1]500
February 2001	4,500	3,200	800	[1]500
February 2002	4,900	3,400	1,000	[1]500
February 2003	5,090	3,620	910	560
February 2004	5,200	3,650	970	570
February 2005	5,220	3,610	1,040	580
February 2006	5,350	3,650	1,120	580
February 2007	5,470	3,720	1,150	600
February 2008	5,640	3,800	1,230	610
February 2009	5,770	3,820	1,300	650
February 2010	5,890	3,870	1,390	630
February 2011	6,100	3,920	1,530	650
South Tyneside local authority				
November 1995	6,900	5,100	1,000	700
February 1996	7,000	5,300	1,000	700
February 1997	7,900	5,800	1,300	800
February 1998	8,500	6,300	1,400	800

Disability living allowance (DLA) recipients by mobility award type: Timeseries

	Total	Higher mobility rate	Lower mobility rate	Nil mobility rate
February 1999	8,400	5,900	1,500	900
February 2000	8,500	6,000	1,600	900
February 2001	8,900	6,100	1,600	1,100
February 2002	9,400	6,300	2,000	1,100
February 2003	9,380	6,470	1,760	1,150
February 2004	9,580	6,540	1,890	1,150
February 2005	9,690	6,500	2,020	1,170
February 2006	9,870	6,550	2,180	1,150
February 2007	10,160	6,660	2,310	1,190
February 2008	10,470	6,800	2,450	1,220
February 2009	10,770	6,880	2,620	1,280
February 2010	11,000	6,950	2,790	1,260
February 2011	11,140	6,920	2,950	1,280
North-east region				
November 1995	112,300	83,300	15,400	13,600
February 1996	115,600	84,900	16,200	14,500
February 1997	128,500	91,500	20,000	17,000
February 1998	137,900	97,000	22,400	18,500
February 1999	140,800	97,500	24,500	18,800
February 2000	143,200	97,500	26,100	19,600
February 2001	147,200	99,800	28,100	19,400
February 2002	152,400	101,800	30,700	19,800
February 2003	154,840	101,860	32,800	20,180
February 2004	157,100	102,600	34,630	19,870
February 2005	158,610	102,620	36,330	19,660
February 2006	159,730	102,620	37,810	19,300
February 2007	163,170	103,810	39,800	19,560
February 2008	167,360	105,380	41,920	20,060
February 2009	172,180	106,720	44,700	20,760
February 2010	175,290	107,210	47,360	20,720
February 2011	177,090	106,930	49,550	20,620
Great Britain and abroad				
November 1995	1,684,900	1,190,500	294,300	200,000
February 1996	1,728,200	1,216,100	307,100	205,100
February 1997	1,907,600	1,312,000	365,400	230,200
February 1998	2,038,400	1,372,700	410,100	255,600
February 1999	2,102,400	1,386,800	442,000	273,500
February 2000	2,172,300	1,406,400	474,400	291,500
February 2001	2,275,600	1,455,400	514,500	305,600
February 2002	2,391,100	1,515,400	561,800	314,000
February 2003	2,516,130	1,561,190	611,800	343,130
February 2004	2,625,390	1,606,770	659,990	358,630
February 2005	2,712,910	1,639,160	705,180	368,570
February 2006	2,785,680	1,663,720	746,240	375,720
February 2007	2,860,790	1,691,330	788,600	380,870
February 2008	2,945,570	1,723,150	835,360	387,060
February 2009	3,043,990	1,750,760	893,190	400,030
February 2010	3,137,730	1,776,550	951,110	410,080

Disability living allowance (DLA) recipients by mobility award type: Timeseries

	Total	*Higher mobility rate*	*Lower mobility rate*	*Nil mobility rate*
February 2011	3,192,090	1,780,420	998,170	413,500

[1] Figures of 500 or less are subject to a degree of sampling variation and therefore should be used as a guide only to the correct situation.

Notes:

1. Figures from November 1995 to February 2002 are taken from 5% sample data. They have been uprated to be consistent with WPLS data and are rounded to the nearest 100.

Figures from May 2002 onwards are taken from WPLS 100% data and are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes cases where the payment has been suspended, e.g. if they are in hospital.

3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament and reflect the changes from May 2010. Prior to this, the constituencies used are for May 2005.

4. Local authority boundary changes from April 2009 have also been taken into account.

5. There is no parliamentary constituency information for DLA until February 1997.

6. Great Britain data have been provided as the information for Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office. Northern Ireland statistics can be found at:

http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research.htm

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS. DWP Information Directorate: Sample data (5%).

The information on numbers of recipients of disability living allowance who have been reassessed is not available in the format requested. Information regarding how many people in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the north-east and the UK have been interviewed and their disability living allowance (DLA) reassessed since May 2010 and how many were awarded a lower level of benefit, lost all of their allowance and were successful on appeal is not routinely collated and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Such information as is available is contained in the following table.

Information on disability living allowance (DLA) decisions and appeal outcome at Great Britain level—May 2010 to September 2011

	Number
Total DLA decisions made (Reconsiderations, Renewals and Supersessions)	802,000
DLA award reduced	56,000
DLA disallowed (an award of benefit becomes a disallowance)	60,000
Total DLA decisions made following an appeal hearing	81,000
Appeal successful—award increased	7,000
Allowed on appeal (a disallowance of one or both components becomes an award of benefit)	24,000

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to nearest 1,000.

2. DLA decisions made figures include reconsiderations, renewals, supersessions (where someone is already in receipt of benefit and reports a change of circumstances which results in the benefit being changed or suspended) and active case management supersessions. The figures do not include Secretary of State supersessions—that is where an award of DLA is looked at again because information has been received that raises questions about the customer's entitlement to DLA. This is because the DLA computer system does not report out the same level of information for Secretary of State supersessions.

3. The DLA management information on appeal decisions does not enable us to identify the type of decision that the customer is disputing. Not all of the appeal decisions shown above will be in connection with an appeal against a decision to award a lower level of benefit or disallow DLA following reassessment. The appeal figures will also include appeals where the customer is disputing the outcome of their initial claim for DLA.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions—RDA60209 and RDA60205 reports—DLA Management Information Statistics

Kinship Carers

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to improve support for kinship carers. [75654]

Maria Miller: Kinship carers can be eligible for a range of benefits. If they are approved foster carers, they can receive a fostering allowance in England and Wales or kinship care allowance in Scotland. If they are not approved, kinship carers may be entitled to child benefit, either child tax credits or pension credits, and any other benefits available to parents, subject to the standard eligibility criteria. In order to prevent double provision, these benefits are not provided where the child is formally looked after by the local authority and their accommodation or maintenance is provided from public funds.

We are currently considering support for families under universal credit, including support for kinship carers.

In addition, statutory guidance for local authorities on family and friends care was issued in March 2011. In particular, it sets out a requirement on local authorities to develop equitable and transparent policies for delivering effective services to kinship carers across the range of legal arrangements which underpin family and friends care.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings he has had with *(a)* kinship carers and *(b)* organisations representing kinship carers; and if he will publish the papers in connection to such meetings. [75655]

Maria Miller: My ministerial colleagues and I have met with representatives from the Kinship Care Alliance on a number of occasions. In line with Cabinet Office guidance, Ministers' meetings with key stakeholders and representative organisations are published on the Cabinet Office website.

Pensions: Public Expenditure

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse arising from implementation of his proposed amendments 13 and 14 to the Pensions Bill at Report Stage; and from which Government budget these costs will be met. [75966]

Steve Webb: The new timetable will reduce the estimated savings by a total of £1.1 billion in 2019-20 and 2020-21 (2011-12 prices).

Social Security Benefits

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit on the working age population, broken down by those (i) in and (ii) out of work in (A) 2012 and (B) 2013; and if he will make a statement. [75397]

Steve Webb: The Department has commissioned a consortium of academics and research organisations led by Ian Cole, professor of housing studies at Sheffield Hallam university, to undertake an independent review of the impact of the housing benefit measures introduced last month. The work will cover both in-work and out-of-work housing benefit claimants and is longitudinal in nature so will re-visit respondents a year after initial interviews.

The Department for Communities and Local Government, the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government are working in close partnership with the DWP and contributing to the costs of the review.

A copy of the available impact assessments on those in-work and out of work has been placed in the Library.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the total monetary value of benefits that are unclaimed for each type of benefit in the last year for which figures are available. [75938]

Chris Grayling: For the six income-related benefits for which estimates are available there was between £6,930 million and £12,700 million left unclaimed in 2008-09. This compared to £38,110 million that was claimed and represents take-up by expenditure of between about 75% and 85%. The information by benefit is in the following table.

		£ million
	Unclaimed benefit	
Benefit	*Lower*	*Upper*
Income support/Employment and support allowance	590	1,630
Pension credit	1,630	2,930
Housing benefit	1,780	3,410
Council tax benefit	1,490	2,150
Jobseeker's allowance (income based)	1,450	2,580

Notes:
1. These statistics are from the National Statistics publication "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2008-09" and are available via the following link http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=irb They refer to private households in Great Britain and exclude the full-time self-employed.
2. Take-up estimates are presented as ranges within which it can be assumed true take-up lies. These robust "ranges of true take-up" account for possible biases that arise in estimating take-up from the available data sources. These ranges also account for the effects of sampling variation (otherwise known as sampling error). Care should be taken when interpreting take-up statistics. For instance, if the upper limit of a caseload take-up range is 90%, this does not necessarily mean that at least 10% never take up their entitlement. This is because some of the shortfall in take-up may represent a delay in claiming benefit that is eventually received.

Source:
Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2008-09.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* women and *(b)* men in (i) East Hampshire constituency, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) the UK who will benefit from his proposed capping of the increase in women's state pension age at 18 months. [75559]

Steve Webb: The information requested is provided in the table below, Great Britain population figures have been used instead of UK population figures.

Number of people with reduced increase in state pension age due to capping of the increase in women's state pension age at 18 months

	Men	*Women*
East Hampshire constituency	420	410
Hampshire	5,400	5,700
Great Britain	240,000	245,000

Notes:
1. Figures are a best estimate making use of county and constituency level population figures derived from England and Wales birth distribution data and local level population estimates.
2. Figures at constituency level have been rounded to the nearest 10, at county level to the nearest 100 and at GB level to the nearest 5,000.
3. Figures for Great Britain have been used consistent with the approach for the Pensions Bill 2011 impact assessment.

Source:
ONS 2008-based Population estimates

Winterbourne View Hospital

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department of Health and *(b)* disabled people following the recent abuse of disabled people at Winterbourne View hospital. [72991]

Maria Miller: I have had discussions with both the Department of Health and representatives from disabled people's organisations regarding Winterbourne View hospital.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 768W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what projects were funded through the National Rural Access Program and National Solidarity Program in Afghanistan; and how much funding each received. [75224]

Mr O'Brien: The multi-donor National Rural Access Program (NRAP) reports tasks completed rather than individual projects. It would incur disproportionate cost to obtain details of all of the projects that were funded through this programme and how much funding each received.

According to the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) website:

www.nspafghanistan.org

the multi-donor NSP has supported over 13,000 transport projects to date. It is not possible to determine the proportion of UK funds used for priority road projects through this programme without incurring disproportionate costs.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 768W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the proportion was of the £98 million of funding provided by his Department through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund that supported priority road projects through the National Rural Access Program and National Solidarity Program. [75225]

Mr O'Brien: Of the £98 million provided by the Department for International Development to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, and estimated to have been spent on infrastructure, £18 million was provided to the National Rural Access Programme for priority road projects (approximately 17%).

According to the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) website:

www.nspafghanistan.org

the multi-donor NSP has supported over 13,000 transport projects to date. It is not possible to determine the proportion of UK funds used for priority road projects through this programme without incurring disproportionate costs.

Afghanistan: Roads

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which road projects in Afghanistan his Department has funded or part-funded in each year since 2001. [75571]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have deposited in the Library a table that shows how much funding DFID has provided to programmes that include road projects. We are not able to provide a more detailed breakdown of the specific projects we contribute to through multi-donor programmes managed by the Afghan Government without incurring disproportionate costs.

British Overseas Territories: Overseas Aid

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to provide aid to British Overseas Territories and Dependants in the next 12 months. [74931]

Mr O'Brien: The Overseas Territories department's operational plan which was published on 28 May 2011 confirmed that in 2011-12 the department plans to provide £59.913 million in aid to the British Overseas Territories and Dependencies. In 2012-13 DFID plans to provide £59.2 million.

The operational plan has been published to the DFID website

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Overseas-Territories/

Charities: Finance

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has granted to *(a)* Oxfam, *(b)* UNICEF, *(c)* CAFOD, *(d)* WaterAid and *(e)* Christian Aid since May 2010. [75323]

Mr O'Brien: Details of the funding provided by DFID to each of the organisations for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 are provided in Statistics for International Development (SID) 2011. Table 18 of SID provides information on UNICEF and Table 19 for CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam and WaterAid. This information is available on the Department for International Developments (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Information about funding since April 2011 will be provided in the next SID 2011-12.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74895]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has two headquarter locations in the UK; one in London and the other in East Kilbride, near Glasgow.

Within the last 12 months, 31 staff agreed to relocation. 30 staff have actually relocated. Of these, 24 staff relocated from London to East Kilbride, and six from East Kilbride to London.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75150]

Mr O'Brien: The number and total value of contracts awarded directly to third sector organisations by the Department for International Development's (DFID) central procurement department since May 2010 are provided in the following table:

	Number	*Total value (£ million)*
October 2010	1	0.1
November 2010	1	8.3
December 2010	2	4.0
January 2011	1	7.5
February 2011	3	8.5
March 2011	3	7.5
May 2011	1	3.0
June 2011	1	7.5
August 2011	2	2.8

The above data relate specifically to supplier type contracts issued to third sector organisations. DFID apply the EU principles of open and fair procurement to supplier contracts, with all competitions carried out in line with the EU directives.

DFID provided £329 million of funding to UK civil society organisations in 2010-11 through other types of arrangement.

Cyber- Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75152]

Mr O'Brien: Government takes cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber Security Programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber-security capability.

The Department for International Development routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF). These standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Developing Countries: Infant Mortality

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress he has made towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the under-five mortality rate to two-thirds of 1990 levels by 2015. [75440]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Between 1990 and 2008, the death rate for children under five decreased by 28%. Worldwide. This means 10,000 fewer under-five deaths every day. However, 7.6 million children still die every year and over 350,000 women lose their lives unnecessarily from complications with pregnancy and childbirth. The UK is committed to supporting the UN "Every Women Every Child" Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health to accelerate progress on improving maternal and child health. Our Framework for Results, 'Choices for women: Planned pregnancies, safer births and healthy newborns', sets out the UK contribution to this strategy. We will save the lives of 50,000 mothers and 250,000 newborn children in poor countries by 2015. UK support to GAVI over the next five years will enable them to vaccinate over 80 million children and save 1.4 million lives.

The UN published an interim progress report in September 2011. 'Saving the Lives of 16 Million' showed enhanced commitment, with increased funding and improved policies and services strengthened on the ground. In addition, more than 100 new partners including Governments, civil society and multilateral organisations, joined the initiative, bringing the total to more than 200.

EU Aid: Trade Unions

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid from the EU budget has been disbursed to trade unions in each of the last 10 financial years. [74127]

Mr O'Brien: The official annual report 2011 on the European Union's Development and External Assistance Policies and their Implementation in 2010 contains information on EU expenditure on external relations on an annual basis. DFID do not hold information on EU overseas development assistance (ODA) disbursed to trade unions, but the European Commission DG EuropeAid public enquiry point

EUROPEAID-info@ec.europa.eu

may be able to provide my hon. Friend with this information.

Details of DFID's existing commitments to trade unions during the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period are available in the Library of the House.

Trade unions are eligible to apply for civil society funding during the CSR period, such as through the Global Poverty Action Fund (GPAF), in competition with other civil society organisations. Any decision to offer funding will be based on the quality of proposals submitted. We expect all proposals to demonstrate value for money in delivering real benefits for poor people while contributing to DFID's wider development goals.

Overseas Aid

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria his Department uses to review a country's performance for the purposes of determining aid allocation; and how frequently such reviews are conducted. [75572]

Mr O'Brien: DFID's Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews in 2010-11 introduced a new approach to aid allocation. DFID no longer allocates resources to countries and regions through a top-down process focused on a formula based on country need and the likely effectiveness of assistance. Instead, DFID identifies and scrutinises from the bottom-up the results that UK assistance can achieve against its development objectives in each country and makes allocation decisions accordingly. DFID will continually centrally monitor its performance against its published targets and country operational plans as part of its annual budget cycle and this will drive resource allocation decisions going forward.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has given to Sri Lanka in each of the last 10 years. [74228]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) allocated the following amounts to Sri Lanka over the last 10 financial years.

Financial year	*DFID bilateral spend (£ million)*
2001-02	4.738

Financial year	DFID bilateral spend (£ million)
2002-03	5.724
2003-04	8.093
2004-05	6.552
2005-06	10.774
2006-07	5.904
2007-08	1.813
2008-09	2.978
2009-10	13.061
2010-11	1.375

DFID closed its bilateral programme with Sri Lanka in 2006. However, since then DFID has contributed bilaterally to humanitarian work in Sri Lanka, all through the UN, Red Cross and NGOs; none going directly to the Government of Sri Lanka.

Details of UK aid expenditure are published annually in Statistics on International Development, which is available in the Library of the House and on DFID's website.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much direct funding his Department has allocated to each civil society organisation in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74820]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) through a range of centrally managed funds and through country programmes. Details of funding provided to UK based CSOs in 2010-11 can be found in Table 19 of "Statistics on International Development", 2011. This is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website

www.dfid.gov.uk

Details of funding provided to CSOs in 2011-12 will be published in the next "Statistics on International Development" in 2012.

The UK Government introduced the Aid Transparency Guarantee in 2010-11, which commits DFID to making all aid spend fully transparent to citizens in the UK and developing countries, increasing accessibility and feedback. As a result, full details of all DFID funded projects, including those delivered by CSOs, can be found on the project database on DFID's website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/DFID-spend

DFID is also encouraging International Organisations and CSOs to make similar commitments.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has given to Yemen in each of the last five years. [74498]

Mr O'Brien: The amount of bilateral assistance provided to Yemen by the Department for International Development (DFID) is reported in "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the Library of the House and on DFID's website.

Financial year	Total DFID bilateral programme (£ million)
2006-07	21.5
2007-08	12.0
2008-09	19.2
2009-10	29.8
2010-11	51.1

CABINET OFFICE

Duchy of Lancaster: Income

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the income was to the Duchy of Lancaster from property escheating to the Dukedom in each of the last 10 years. [75344]

Mr Maude: Receipts to the Duchy of Lancaster from escheat for the last 10 years is shown in the following table:

	Escheat receipts from sales (£)
2001-02	4,870
2002-03	4,200
2003-04	8,101
2004-05	23,130
2005-06	2,350
2006-07	62
2007-08	68,290
2008-09	29,028
2009-10	171,699
2010-11	0

Unemployment

Helen Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the percentage change in the level of unemployment has been in each local authority area since May 2010. [76104]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the percentage change in the level of unemployment has been in each local authority area since May 2010. (076104)

The Office for National Statistics produces estimates of total unemployment for unitary and local authorities, from a statistical model based on Annual Population Survey (APS) lending strength from Claimant Count, following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the percentage changes in the levels of unemployment for all local authorities in Great Britain between the 12 month period ending June 2010 and the 12 month period ending March 2011, which is the latest period available. As the information requested is quite extensive, a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Voter Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department spent on steps to encourage voter registration in each of the last five years; and how much funding he plans to allocate for such purposes in each of the next four years. [75900][1]

Mr Harper: Electoral registration is the responsibility of individual Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). Local authorities have a duty to encourage participation in the electoral process and the Electoral Commission promotes public awareness of registration and produces research and reports on electoral registration issues. Electoral registration activity at the local level is funded through the Revenue Support Grant from central Government.

The Ministry of Justice (responsible for elections policy until June 2010) provided funding through the Electoral Participation Fund set up in 2007-08 to support local electoral officers in undertaking their statutory duties. The following funds were provided from the Participation Fund: £934,742 in 2007-08, £544,392 in 2008-09 and £153,895 in 2009-10. A further £67,355 was spent in 2010-11 to support activities undertaken by electoral administrators to encourage participation at the elections which were held on 6 May 2010, but approved in the previous financial year. The Participation Fund was closed in the Emergency Budget of 22 June 2010.

The Government have allocated a total of £108 million to meet the cost of implementing Individual Electoral Registration. This will fund EROs to make contact with each potential elector individually and invite them to register in 2014. It will also fund research to understand the current state of the electoral register and currently under-registered groups in order to ensure that as many people as possible are registered to vote. This year the Government are funding the piloting of "data matching' of electoral registers against other data sources, such as the National Pupil Database and the Department for Work and Pensions database, to identify possible eligible electors, as well as looking at the ways in which we can make it as easy and secure as possible for citizens to register to vote, such as online registration.

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he will attend the UN conference on climate change in Durban later this year. [75439]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The UK delegation will be led by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne). I do not plan to attend.

Electoral Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the change in the level of electoral registration arising from the introduction of individual voter registration in Northern Ireland; and what estimate he has made of the potential effects on the level of voter registration of the introduction of individual voter registration in the rest of the UK. [75891]

Mr Harper: Data on the levels of electoral registration over the period following transition to Individual Electoral Registration in Northern Ireland have been published by the Electoral Commission and are available at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/publications-and-research/policy-and-research?query=&meta_s_phrase=Electoral_register&meta_C=Northern+Ireland&meta_dyear=&sort=relevancy&daat=on

The Government will do everything they can to maintain the completeness of the electoral register during the transition to Individual Registration in Great Britain. This includes learning from the experience in Northern Ireland in formulating our plans for the transition, such as phasing the transition in over two years, allowing electors who do not apply under the new system in 2014 to be carried forward so they retain their vote at the 2015 general election. Every eligible elector will be asked in 2014 to register under the new system. This will include personal invites to people on the register, inquiries to households where no one is registered or people have moved, reminder letters and face to face doorstep canvassers. There will be a publicity campaign run by the Electoral Commission. We are also testing data matching to identify people missing from the register and looking at how we can increase the choices people have over how to register, including greater use of online registration.

The Government are also funding research to understand the current state of the electoral register. This will help us to better understand the way in which the move to Individual Electoral Registration will have an impact. Further research will be conducted with currently under-registered groups in order to ensure that as many people as possible are registered to vote, and to assist the transition to Individual Electoral Registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the interim findings of the research project on electoral registration data sharing. [75896]

Mr Harper: The Government are conducting pilots to test data matching of the electoral registers against various national datasets in 22 pilot sites. The pilots are still live and will continue to run until 30 November. The Electoral Commission will conduct an independent evaluation of the pilots which will be completed and published in March 2012. The Government will also undertake their own evaluation which will consider both the process of data matching and the potential impact it may have on the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were prosecuted for not completing an electoral registration form in each of the last three years. [75901]

Mr Harper: The Government do not hold this information, but it can be found on the Electoral Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/data-collection

The Electoral Commission figures show that the number of prosecutions initiated as a result of a failure to respond to the annual canvass in the last three years are as follows:

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[1] *[Official Report, 9 November 2011, Vol. 535, c. 1MC.]*

	Prosecutions
2008	183
2009	67
2010	144

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* electoral registration officers and *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on steps to improve the level of electoral registration in (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) the rest of the UK. [75902]

Mr Harper: The Government are currently running data matching schemes with Electoral Registration Officers to test the usefulness of public authority data, including DVLA driver records, for improving the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register. The Cabinet Office continues to work closely with DVLA and the relevant local authority Electoral Registration Officers to ensure the success of the data matching schemes and preparations for the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration.

The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is in regular contact with Electoral Registration Officers and the DVLA to ensure the validity of the continuous registration process in Northern Ireland. The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland has previously collaborated with the DVLA by asking them to include an information leaflet on the Electoral Register with their car tax reminders.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to increase the level of electoral registration on industrial estates and large factories in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the rest of the UK. [75918]

Mr Harper: Registration is the responsibility of local Electoral Registration Officers. As part of his general objective to increase levels of registration in Northern Ireland, the Chief Electoral Officer is trialling a number of initiatives to target particular groups or individuals.

The UK Government remain absolutely committed to ensuring that the maximum number of people are on the electoral register and is considering a number of ways to help improve registration in the context of the move to Individual Electoral Registration. This includes trialling 'data matching' of electoral registers against other data sources, such as the National Pupil Database and the Department for Work and Pensions database, to identify possible eligible electors, as well as looking at the ways in which we can make it as easy and secure as possible for citizens to register to vote, such as online registration.

Electoral Registration: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will consider ring-fencing funding provided for electoral registration purposes. [75895]

Mr Harper: Under current arrangements, it is the responsibility of local authorities to allocate resources from the revenue support grant provided by central Government. The Government are committed to funding the move to Individual Electoral Registration and will ensure that Electoral Registration Officers are able to implement the new system properly.

Electoral Registration: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to improve the voter registration rates among young people in or leaving care homes in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the rest of the UK. [75904]

Mr Harper: As part of his objective to increase levels of registration in Northern Ireland, the chief electoral officer is trialling a number of initiatives to target particular groups or individuals, and consideration is being given to devising and piloting a scheme to register young people in or leaving care sometime in the future.

The UK Government remain absolutely committed to ensuring that the maximum number of people are on the electoral register and are considering a number of ways to help improve registration in the context of the move to individual electoral registration. This includes trialling this year "data matching" of electoral registers against other data sources, such as the National Pupil Database and the DWP database, to identify possible eligible electors, as well as looking at the ways in which we can make it as easy and secure as possible for citizens to register to vote through ways such as online registration. Further research will also be conducted into those groups that are currently under-registered, including young people, to inform our plans for implementation. As part of that research we will be learning from the experience of initiatives trialled in Northern Ireland.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the security of Afghan interpreters who have worked with UK armed forces after the withdrawal of those forces in 2014; what policy was applied in respect of the security of Iraqi interpreters following the withdrawal of UK forces from Iraq; how many *(a)* Afghan and *(b)* Iraqi interpreters (i) have been and (ii) will be allowed to relocate in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [75504]

Alistair Burt: The Government take their responsibility for all members of staff seriously and have put in place measures to reduce the risks they face.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office follows a cross-Government policy for considering cases of local staff intimidation or injury in Afghanistan on a case-by-case basis. The policy ensures that we take into account the individual circumstances of each case and allows us to decide a proportionate response. It covers all locally-employed staff, including interpreters.

Where staff face a serious threat our response might include providing protected accommodation, giving safety advice to staff and their families, granting extended leave or transferring staff to different jobs. In serious cases we may help staff relocate, either within Afghanistan, to a third country, or, in exceptional cases, to the UK. We have relocated one member of staff (not an interpreter) from Afghanistan to the UK.

This policy is tailored to circumstances in Afghanistan. We keep this policy under review. Those who put their lives on the line for the UK will not be abandoned.

Statements made by the former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for South Shields (David Miliband), on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS, set out the policy of the Government towards their locally employed staff in Iraq. These schemes (known as "Gateway" or "Direct Entry") allowed both serving and former staff in Iraq to apply for an assistance package, one option of which allowed staff who qualified under the terms of the scheme to relocate to the UK. These schemes are now closed. A statement from the former Secretary of State on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 4-6WS, and a statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), on 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 57-58WS, gave further details.

Of those employees who chose the option of relocating to the UK, 293 (760 including dependants) have settled in the UK to date. A further 78 people (407 including dependants) have extant applications to relocate that are being considered. The Iraq scheme applied to all local staff including interpreters.

Belarus: Human Rights

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage respect for human rights in Belarus. [75058]

Mr Lidington: The UK continues to be at the forefront of efforts within the EU and the wider international community to maintain political pressure on the Belarusian authorities, and to urge them to adhere to their human rights obligations.

We strongly support the EU position of not re-engaging fully with Belarus until the authorities commit to real reform. We have been working with EU partners to strengthen sanctions against the regime and its backers in an effort to promote positive developments. We believe these efforts have had some effect, as the regime has now released all but seven of over 40 political prisoners.

To sustain pressure, the EU Foreign Affairs Council agreed, on 10 October, to renew sanctions until 31 October 2012, as well as adding 16 new names to the travel ban and assets freeze list.

We have continued to maintain pressure in other ways as well. I released statements on 6 August and 28 September to call for all political prisoners to be released and rehabilitated immediately, and to call on the Belarusian authorities to respect their international obligations concerning the treatment of prisoners. In a statement at the UN Human Rights Council on 21 September, the UK called for Belarus to end politically motivated harassment and intimidation, conduct a thorough and credible investigation into the allegations of degrading treatment against prisoners and establish a formal moratorium on executions.

The Department co-ordinated a joint letter by 10 EU Ministers of Justice sent in August to their Belarusian counterparts to protest about pressure on lawyers defending political prisoners.

At the Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw on 29-30 September, we supported the strong EU statement on Belarus. In the margins of the Summit, the Deputy Prime Minister and I met Belarusian opposition figures and human rights defenders.

Our embassy has remained active in Belarus too, observing protest demonstrations as well as several trials in relation to the violent aftermath of the 19 December presidential election, including those of several ex-presidential candidates. It uses all appropriate opportunities to raise human rights issues with Government officials.

Capital Punishment

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage *(a)* the United States and *(b)* member states of the Commonwealth to abolish the death penalty. [75200]

Mr Bellingham: It is the longstanding policy of the UK to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle.

In the US retention of the death penalty is decided at state level and we are therefore working to achieve abolition on a state by state basis. We regularly raise individual cases of those facing the death penalty where minimum standards on the use of the death penalty have not been met. In the majority of cases we do this in concert with the EU in order to have greater impact.

We regularly raise the abolition of the death penalty with governments of Commonwealth member states at both official and ministerial level. We have also raised the death penalty through the UN Universal Periodic Review process. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is funding project work in Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean and Africa to restrict the use of the death penalty, and as a result of one project the mandatory death penalty for felony murder was ruled unconstitutional in Trinidad and Tobago in June 2011.

Climate Change: Conferences

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he has discussed the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban with the *(a)* US, *(b)* German, *(c)* Chinese and *(d)* Indian Governments. [75441]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) has regular discussions with foreign governments on the challenge that climate change poses to our prosperity and security; the importance of taking robust global action to tackle it; and the need to make progress on this agenda in Durban. He most recently discussed climate change with foreign counterparts during the visit of his Chinese opposite number during the latter's visit to London in September.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75138]

Mr Lidington: We do not record the classification of our suppliers in terms of their voluntary or charitable status.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75139]

Mr Lidington: For the financial year 2010-11, of the businesses that we are able to classify, £71 million was paid to small or micro enterprises, £24.7 million was paid to medium-sized enterprises and the balance of £173 million was paid to large enterprises. No information is available on the number of contracts.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75141]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not yet advertised any contracts on Contracts Finder. FCO procurement is largely devolved to a network of over 260 posts overseas. We are continuing to examine how the centralised procedure through Contracts Finder can interface with this devolved international structure.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75140]

Mr Lidington: The Government take cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. An additional £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber Security Programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber security capability.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its Information, Communication Technology systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF). These standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Domestic Service

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of changes to the rights of migrant domestic workers in circumstances where individuals flee a trafficker or abusive employer; and if he will make a statement. [75256]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

The rights of overseas domestic workers in private households are discussed in proposals to end the domestic workers visa in the Government's consultation document "Employment-Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers".

The consultation document set out a number of proposals for reform, which include making protections more appropriate, should the route be retained. We are currently considering the responses that have been received.

Economic Situation

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the economic benefits which have accrued to the UK as a result of his strategy to make his Department more commercially focussed since June 2010. [73304]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has yet to make an assessment of the economic benefits of its commercial diplomacy activities. It plans to do so one year on from the launch of the FCO Charter for Business in May next year.

Eurobonds

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the implementation of any proposal by the European Commission to issue Eurobonds would require *(a)* a new treaty and *(b)* amendments to existing EU treaties. [75063]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

Any legal implications would depend on the precise design of any proposals for the issuance of "Eurobonds". There have, at present, been no formal proposals from the European Commission.

European Union Act 2011

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 42WS, on European Union Act 2011, when he proposes to introduce the Bill required to give effect to this decision. [75696]

Mr Lidington: The target coming into force date agreed at the time the Decision was adopted by the European Council was 1 January 2013. Mindful of that target date, we will introduce the necessary legislation to give effect to this decision as soon as practicable.

Foreign Investment

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries the Government has held negotiations on bilateral investment treaties since May 2010; and with which countries such negotiations are ongoing. [74536]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

The UK has not held negotiations on bilateral investment treaties with any countries since before May 2010.

Competence for Foreign Direct Investment passed to the European Union in 2009.

GCHQ: Location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 382W, on GCHQ: location, if he will give a breakdown of the £308 million costs of technical transition. [74924]

Mr Lidington: The £308 million technical transition funding covered those aspects involved in moving to the new building, which were not part of the Unitary Payment under the Private Finance Initiative contract. The money was used to fund technical aspects of the move, such as the consolidation and movement of technical systems, the provision of new network infrastructure, a consolidated desktop and fit out of computer halls and labs.

Iceland: Whales

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has made to the Government of Iceland on the International Agreements on Whaling; [75373]

(2) what representations he has made to the Government of Iceland on its trade with Japan in whale meat and whale fins. [75374]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The UK takes every appropriate opportunity to raise our opposition to Iceland's commercial whaling and its international trade in whale meat, most recently at the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in July.

The UK Government will continue to argue that trade in fin whale meat undermines the credibility of the IWC as an effective organisation for the conservation of whale populations worldwide.

We have also made clear that for Iceland to join the EU, the UK believes it must accept that its whaling operations are incompatible with membership. All cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) are fully protected in European Union waters and we would expect any country applying to join the EU to abide by its laws. We will continue to work with other member states to ensure the effective protection and conservation of whales.

Indigenous Peoples: Treaties

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had on ratification by the UK of *(a)* the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention 1989 and *(b)* the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and if he will make a statement. [75974]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are fully committed to promoting and protecting human rights for all individuals, including indigenous people, without discrimination on any grounds. We continue to work overseas and through the UN to improve the situation of indigenous people around the world.

ILO Convention 169 sets out a framework for how governments should act with regard to indigenous and tribal people within their own territories. To date the UK has not ratified the convention as we do not consider that the UK or its overseas territories have any indigenous people to whom it would apply. We are also of the view that the convention does not apply extra-territorially. For these reasons, we would not be able to give effect to the convention. However, following discussions with Survival International, a non-government organisation working to raise the profile of the situation facing many indigenous communities around the world, I have asked officials to look again in detail at our position to reassure ourselves that it is the right one.

In September 2007 the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The declaration outlaws discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them. It also ensures their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own priorities in economic, social and cultural development. The declaration is not legally binding and cannot therefore be ratified by Governments. The UK supported its adoption in 2007 and welcomes the growing support for the declaration, including from countries with significant indigenous populations.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74780]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supports this policy. It has not identified any opportunities within its own operations, but will continue to discuss the subject with the Cabinet Office.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many repatriations following injury of British citizens took place as a result of road accidents in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010 and *(e)* 2011 to date, by country; and what the total cost to the public purse was of such repatriations in each such year by country. [75084]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has an electronic database used to record our individual consular case handling. However, the database does not capture the specific statistics requested.

Thailand: Roads

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with the Government of Thailand on road safety; and what assessment his Department has made of road safety in that country. [75086]

Mr Bellingham: Our ambassador to Thailand raised road safety with the new Thai Transport Minister ACM Sukumpol on 28 September. Consular officials in Thailand regularly raise this issue in meetings with the relevant Thai authorities. Our travel advice

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/asia-oceania/thailand

highlights the risks of road travel in Thailand.

Tourism

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the age profile of UK tourists visiting foreign countries by country visited in each of the last five years. [75233]

Mr Bellingham: While the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does have a facility for British nationals to register their overseas travel plans, registration is entirely voluntary. We are therefore unable to provide the statistics and profile of travellers requested.

Tzipi Livni

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date it was agreed that the recent visit of Tzipi Livni should be given special mission status; and on what grounds the decision was made. [75692]

Alistair Burt: In relation to the visit to the UK by the Leader of the Opposition of Israel, Mrs Livni, on 5-6 October 2011, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), agreed on 27 September 2011 that she should visit the UK in order to discuss matters of mutual interest in relations between Israel and the UK. Detailed arrangements for the visit were then agreed between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the embassy of Israel.

In FCO practice, there are no prescribed formalities for consenting to a special mission, but such consent may be inferred from the circumstances of any given visit. The decision for special mission status for each visit is treated on its own merits.

Uganda: Children

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Ugandan Government on reports of ritual child sacrifice in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [75431]

Mr Bellingham: I am appalled by the ongoing practice of child sacrifice, and other forms of ritual murder in Uganda and around the world, as highlighted by the Jubilee Campaign.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Government of Uganda's measures to combat this appalling practice. This includes, as well as the normal criminal investigation and prosecution processes, the establishment of a ministerial task force, the setting up of child and family protection units in the police force, and by the end of this year the establishment of a national plan of action on child sacrifice.

Furthermore, the DFID office in Uganda has supported child protection work in Uganda through UN Children's Fund, who focus on child sacrifice as part of their broader work. We are also engaged with local non-governmental organisations who are working to raise awareness of this problem and who are campaigning for tighter regulation of so-called "traditional healers" in the country.

PRIME MINISTER

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister when he has discussed the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban with his *(a)* US, *(b)* German, *(c)* Chinese and *(d)* Indian counterpart. [75442]

The Prime Minister: I have regular discussions with my US, German, Chinese and Indian counterparts on a variety of subjects.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Prime Minister how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75714]

The Prime Minister: I regularly meet representatives of social enterprises, charities, large private sector businesses and small and medium-sized private sector businesses, including on visits around the country, and at receptions and meetings hosted at Number 10. For further information I refer the hon. Member to the Number 10 website, which often gives further information about my visits, to the lists of meetings with external organisations which is published at least quarterly, and the list of receptions hosted at Number 10. These are available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

G20

Laura Sandys: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will recommend plans to address the vulnerability of the international food system in his forthcoming global governance report to the G20; [75393]

(2) what the remit is of his global governance role within the G20; [75394]

(3) if he will publish minutes of the meeting he held in September 2011 with trade experts to inform his report on global governance for the G20. [75395]

The Prime Minister: I will present a written report on global governance at this year's G20 summit in November.

I have discussed the report with other leaders. Officials have arranged a number of seminars with academics, business associations and non-governmental organisations, including on trade. The issues raised at these events will be reflected in the final report. The report will emphasise the importance of existing international institutions working better together and more coherently in future, including with the private sector, to tackle global challenges such as international food security.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Off-grid Households

12. **Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he is making on ensuring that off-grid households have access to affordable heating fuels in the winter of 2011-12. [75595]

Charles Hendry: The Office of Fair Trading published its study into the off-grid energy market on Tuesday 18 October 2011, which found that action is needed to protect heating oil consumers in some areas.

Ahead of next winter, the Department has been working with industry and consumer groups, in a national campaign, to encourage customers to order early and ensure they are well prepared for winter. We have also reminded terminal operators to ensure that they have sufficient salt to maintain access to their depots in the event of snow and ice over the coming winter.

Domestic Energy Prices

17. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the six largest energy companies on recent trends in domestic energy prices; and if he will make a statement. [75601]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet suppliers and others on a regular basis to discuss market issues. The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), chaired a consumer summit on Monday 17 October 2011 to launch the 'check, switch, insulate to save' campaign and a package of measures to help consumers this winter. We are working with consumer groups, energy suppliers and the regulator Ofgem to ensure consumers know how to save money on their energy bills by checking on their energy deal, switching their supplier if appropriate and insulating their homes.

Energy Prices

19. **Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce prices for domestic energy consumers. [75604]

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change What steps the Government are taking to minimise price increases for energy consumers. [75606]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Bury North (Mr Nuttall) today.

Energy Market Competition

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage greater competition in the domestic energy market. [75593]

Charles Hendry: We are removing barriers to enable small suppliers to challenge the dominance of established suppliers.

This includes measures to cut red tape for small energy suppliers and Ofgem's Retail Market Review proposals to reduce tariff complexity and increase liquidity in the wholesale electricity market.

Emissions: SMEs

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department provides to small and medium-sized businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. [75598]

Charles Hendry: There are a number of government policies which support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Green Deal, for example, will be available to SMEs when it is launched next year. It will enable them to improve the energy efficiency of their properties, thereby reducing carbon emissions and energy costs. The Green Deal will also drive demand for energy efficiency products and services from which SMEs will be able to benefit.

Clair Ridge Oil Project

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Prime Minister's announcement of 13 October 2011, on the Clair Ridge oil project, what steps he is taking to ensure that apprenticeship opportunities for young people form part of the contract. [75514]

Charles Hendry: It would not be appropriate for the UK Government to seek to insert specific clauses into contracts. This work will give rise to significant opportunities to young workers and opportunities for businesses throughout the UK.

BP continues to recruit and train numerous new recruits. This year more than 400 vacancies have been filled of which 75 were young graduates and apprentices. They are also strong supporters of the Industry Technician training scheme which takes on around 150 school leavers every year as apprentice technicians and puts them through a three-year training programme.

At its peak the total investments of BP and its partners in these developments will support some 3,000 UK oil and gas supply chain jobs, and will help safeguard employment for BP's North sea work force of over 3,500 people.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Prime Minister's announcement of 13 October 2011, on the Clair Ridge oil project, what steps he plans to take to ensure that *(a)* firms and *(b)* workers from (i) the UK, (ii) the north-east and (iii) other English regions will be awarded work on the project. [75515]

Charles Hendry: The Clair Ridge projects represents some £4.5 billion of investment, of which 53% will come to the UK and will be divided among a spectrum of companies throughout the supply chain located in all parts of the country.

It should be noted the BP overall investment plan which included the Devenick development had 72% UK content and Kinnoull with 92% spend in the UK. In particular modules for these are being fabricated in McNulty yard in South Shields, Methill, Invergordon and Wick in Scotland—i.e., a good spread throughout the UK.

BP have also highlighted that around 50 UK registered companies have already won Clair Ridge contracts. They have also announced on 17 October that AMEC, a UK based company, has been awarded a £150 million contract for engineering on the Clair Ridge project.

Departmental Manpower

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1251W, on departmental manpower, what was discussed at the meeting between his Department's officials and the practitioners' advisory group; and if he will publish the minutes of the meeting. [73444]

Charles Hendry: The meeting was convened by the practitioners' advisory group and, as such, DECC did not take minutes of the meeting.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75706]

Gregory Barker: Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published, quarterly on the Department's website.

Energy Supply: Prices

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage energy companies to extend their offer of the Warm Home Discount to a greater number of eligible customers. [75872]

Gregory Barker: The overall spending target for the Warm Home Discount Scheme is set out in Schedule 1 of the Warm Home Discount Regulations 2011 (2011/1033) and is £1.1 billion over the four years of the scheme (2011-12 to 2014-15). This represents a significant increase in activity and funding on the 2008-10 voluntary agreement between the six major energy supply companies and Government which was worth £375 million over three years.

2011-12 is the first year of the Warm Home Discount Scheme. Government are working with the energy suppliers to implement the scheme, and expects that around 2 million households will receive direct help this year. Over 600,000 of these will be pensioners in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only, who will receive an automatic rebate on their electricity bill of £120 this winter. In addition, a Broader Group such as low income families and those with long term illnesses and disabilities may also receive this discount, with £3 million available for Broader Group expenditure in 2011-12. To ensure a smooth transition from the previous Voluntary Agreement, £140 million has been allocated for Legacy Spending in 2011-12, for suppliers to continue to provide discounted and social tariffs.

The level of expenditure will increase with each scheme year. The Broader Group expenditure will rise to £47 million in 2012-13, as spending on legacy tariffs decreases, and £90 million in 2014-15. The numbers assisted automatically through the Core Group will also increase in future years as eligibility expands to include those on the savings element of pension credit. Expenditure increases from £97 million in 2011-12 to £190 million in 2014-15.

Electricity suppliers may provide other rebates or assistance to their customers, but any such expenditure cannot be counted as part of their funding for the Scheme.

Feed-in Tariffs

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the payment of a feed-in tariff for renewable energy equipment supported by grant funding and contracted for installation before but not installed by 1 October 2011. [76037]

Gregory Barker: The Feed-in Tariffs (Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions) Order 2011 provides that a grant made before 1 July 2011 towards an installation first commissioned before 1 October 2011 could be eligible for feed-in tariffs (FITs) and grant in combination providing it meets the requirements under *de minimis* regulations.

Therefore, in instances where grant funding is received and the installation is contracted but not commissioned before 1 October 2011, the installation would not be eligible for FITs.

Fuels

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of the effect of fuel duty on economic growth; and if he will make a statement. [75657]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet regularly with their counterparts in HM Treasury and other Departments to discuss a range of issues. As has been the case with successive administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by his Department using the Government Procurement Card from its creation to May 2010. [73487]

Gregory Barker: The full answer to this question could be provided only at disproportionate cost because of the large number of transactions that would need to be reviewed before publication and changes to the format in which data for past periods are held. I am able to provide details of transactions over £500 for the period from December 2009 to May 2010. These are too extensive to include in this response and will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

For the financial year 2011-12, the Government have decided to make public details of GPC transactions over £500. Data for the first quarter covering April to June 2011 are now available from the DECC website.

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73725]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008. DECC's records of procurement card transactions prior to December 2009 were held on a mix of paper and electronic files. It would incur disproportionate cost to search these records. DECC holds central records of all procurement card transactions for the period December 2009 to March 2011, and of all transactions over £500 for the period 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011. We have identified one cash withdrawal using a procurement card in December 2009. This was to cover Copenhagen cash expenses and to top up ministerial petty cash.

DECC staff holding procurement cards can only use them for the purposes agreed when their cards were issued. Any other usage is unacceptable and may result in cards being withdrawn. On this basis, cash withdrawals are prohibited for the vast majority of cardholders

Green Deal Scheme

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the role of installers in encouraging the uptake of the Green Deal by households; and if he will make a statement. [76207]

Gregory Barker: Approved installers will have a central role in driving demand for the Green Deal. Home improvements can be a key "trigger point" for installation of additional efficiency measures.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take in respect of the Office of Fair Trading report into the liquefied petroleum gas industry. [75903]

Charles Hendry: I refer to the written ministerial statement that I made on 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 58-59WS.

It is for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to actively investigate markets that do not appear to be meeting the needs of consumers and to publish the results. The Competition Act 1998 and the Enterprise Act 2002 gives powers to the OFT to apply and enforce competition and consumer measures alongside the Competition Commission, Trading Standards Departments and others.

In its market study of off-grid energy, the OFT has considered the initial impact of the Competition Commission's Orders on the supply of domestic bulk LPG. It concludes that the Orders appear to be facilitating an increase in the amount of switching between LPG suppliers and that they have been effective in stimulating entry and the expansion of smaller firms. However, it has some concerns over consumer protection issues and is engaging with suppliers to seek improvement in the clarity of contract terms and protection of consumers' cancellation and switching rights.

Natural Gas

Mr Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the prospects for shale gas in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [75585]

Charles Hendry: A British Geological Survey study in 2010 estimated that if UK shales were similar to those in the USA they could yield some 150 billion cubic metres of gas, equivalent to roughly two years' of UK demand.

The BGS is currently undertaking more detailed work which will also take into account the recent drilling results of Cuadrilla in Lancashire.

However, little drilling has taken place and commercial production of shale gas has not been proven, so it is not yet possible to make a reliable estimate of recoverable reserves.

Nuclear Installations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the report by HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, September 2011, on what date the most recent periodic safety reviews were conducted at each nuclear facility reviewed in the report; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each review. [75023]

Charles Hendry: Periodic Safety Reviews are published on the ONR's website at

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/periodic-safety-review/index.htm

The dates of the most recent Periodic Safety Reviews for each nuclear facility are set out in the following table:

Nuclear site	*Nuclear facility*	*Date of PSR*
Ascot, Imperial College Consort Reactor	Ascot, Imperial College Consort Reactor	2001
Atomic Weapons Establishment	Aldermaston	2010
	Burghfield	2006
Berkeley	Berkeley site	2009
Bradwell	Bradwell	2002
Capenhurst	URENCO	2008
Chapelcross	Chapelcross	2009
Devonport Royal Dockyard, Plymouth	Nuclear Utilities Building	2008
	15 Dock	2009
	Low level Refuelling facility	2011
Devonshire Dock Complex, Barrow	Devonshire Dock Complex, Barrow	2004
Dounreay	Prototype Fast Reactor	2008
	Fast Reactor Materials	2009
	Test Reactor	2011
Dungeness	Dungeness A	2006
	Dungeness B	2008
GE Healthcare	Cardiff and Amersham sites	2002
Hartlepool	Hartlepool	2009
Harwell, Research sites restoration Ltd	Harwell, Research sites restoration Ltd	2003
Heysham	Heysham 1	2009
	Heysham 2	2010
Hinkley Point	Hinkley Point A	2005
	Hinkley Point B	2007
Hunterston	Hunterston A	2010
	Hunterston B	2007
Lillyhall	Metals recycling facility	Due 2019
Low level waste (LLW) repository, Cumbria	LLW repository, Cumbria	2006
Oldbury	Oldbury	2008
Rolls Royce Marine Power Operations Ltd, Derby	Manufacturing site	2002
	Neptune Reactor	2006
Sellafield—Capenhurst	Sellafield—Capenhurst	2007
Sellafield	Site Ion Exchange Effluent Plant	2000
	Fuel Handling Plant	2003
	Magnox Reprocessing Plant	2003
	Product Finishing and Storage	2003
	Storage Pond 4	2003
	Waste Vitrification Plant	2003
	Enhanced Actinide Removal Plant	2004
	Magnox Swarf Storage Silos	2004
	THORP Receipt and Storage	2004
	Pile Fuel Cladding Silo	2005
	Waste Packaging and Encapsulation Plant	2005
	Windscale Pile Reactor	2005
	First Generation Magnox	2006
	Calder Hall	2006
	Waste Encapsulation Plant	2006
	Encapsulation Product Store	2007
	Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant	2007
	Highly Active Liquor Evaporation and Storage	2010
	Pile Fuel Storage Pond	2010
	Produce Store 9 and Extension	2010
	Sellafield MOX Plant	Due 2015
Sizewell	Sizewell A	2006
	Sizewell B	2005
Transfyndd	Transfyndd	2011
Winfrith	PRS assessment not carried out by agreement with ONR due to acceleration of de-commissioning	—
Wylfa	Wylfa	2004

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what evaluation work has been undertaken within the generic design assessment process for prospective new nuclear reactors on *(a)* control of reactivity, *(b)* post-trip cooling, *(c)* containment, *(d)* severe accident management and *(e)* spent fuel storage. [75024]

Charles Hendry: The Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is an independent review by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency (the Regulators) to ensure that the proposed new nuclear reactor designs for the UK are safe and secure, and protect the environment. The regulators publish quarterly progress reports that summarise the progress made to assess and evaluate a comprehensive range of technical areas, including control of reactivity, post trip cooling, containment, severe accident management, and spent fuel storage. The latest quarterly report was published on the ONR website on 14 July 2011 and mentions, for the first time, the outstanding GDA issues, based on the completion of ONR's planned assessment. All the issues must be cleared to both regulators' satisfaction before ONR grants consent to start construction of reactor buildings at a nuclear licensed site.

The regulators' assessment, described in the July progress report, excludes any findings from the review conducted by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations into the nuclear incident that took place in March 2011 at Fukushima, Japan. This is because the regulators' assessment was completed before this incident. The consequences of the Fukushima incident will be addressed through a separate GDA issue, to which the industry has yet to respond. It will also need clearing to the regulators' satisfaction as one of the suite of identified GDA issues.

ONR's quarterly reports are available on

www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/quarterly-updates.htm

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for public safety of the potential for coincident damage to both a nuclear facility and an off-site technical support centre arising from a significant nuclear accident involving release of radiation. [75025]

Charles Hendry: The probability of coincident damage to both a nuclear facility and an off-site technical support centre is considered remote, given that there is considerable distance between the locations of the reactor sites and the support centres. However, the UK's nuclear emergency response arrangements, which consider the implications for public safety, are kept under review by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, with support from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the multi-agency Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group.

The on-site nuclear emergency response at civil nuclear reactor sites (operational and being decommissioned) is supported by an off-site technical Central Emergency Support Centre. This is many miles away from the nearest sites it supports. In the very unlikely event of coincident damage, the site operators can call upon technical expertise from other locations including their unaffected nuclear sites.

The on-site nuclear emergency response at Sellafield is also supported by an off-site technical centre and a number of remote alternative facilities.

However, in the light of the lessons learned from the Fukushima incident, a programme to strengthen the current arrangements is being developed by DECC which will deliver tangible improvements over several years.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the training provided to nuclear plant operators in enabling them to handle multiple cause nuclear accidents. [75026]

Charles Hendry: Under the nuclear site licensing regime, licensed operators are legally required to have adequate arrangements in place to deal with a range of on-site accidents or emergencies. This includes the provision of appropriate and adequate training for site personnel. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), which enforces the licensing regime, has produced guidance to assist in ensuring the adequacy of levels of competence and training provision among site staff to respond to a nuclear emergency.

Emergency preparedness at nuclear licensed sites is regularly tested through a series of emergency exercises, which are assessed by ONR inspectors, with any lessons learnt communicated to the site operators so that they may be acted upon. The exercise scenarios frequently involve two or more causal events arising from simulated multiple failures, thereby ensuring training in preparedness for this at nuclear sites.

In the light of the reports to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations into the implications for the UK nuclear industry from the Fukushima incident in March, these arrangements are subject to review against the lessons learnt from the incident. The Chief Nuclear Inspector intends to report publicly in a year on progress against all the recommendations he has made.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps have been taken to enhance control room habitability at UK nuclear installations during severe accident conditions following the Fukushima nuclear accident. [75028]

Charles Hendry: The final report of Her Majesty's Chief Nuclear Inspector to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), on the implications for the UK nuclear industry of the Fukushima nuclear incident in March 2011, includes a recommendation that the industry should ensure that its physical structures and hardware for responding to a nuclear accident, including plant control rooms, on-site emergency control centres and off-site emergency centres are adequately protected should such an accident occur. This includes the need for enhancing control room habitability along with other measures. The Chief Nuclear Inspector expects the industry to report progress to him on this, and other recommendations, in June 2012 following which he intends to publish a further report setting out progress on the 38 areas where he concluded lessons can be learned in the UK from the Fukushima incident.

Renewable Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 219W, on renewable energy, if he will estimate the likely annual morbidity arising from the emissions from each Megawatt of installed biomass capacity. [73749]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The modelling of morbidity in relation to air emissions is the responsibility of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Renewables Obligation

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to announce his Department's Renewable Obligation Banding Review consultation. [75602]

Chris Huhne: DECC has today launched a public consultation on the Renewables Obligation Banding Review. The consultation sets out the Government's proposals for banded support for large-scale renewable electricity generation under the Renewables Obligation for the period 2013-17. The consultation will last 12 weeks and closes on 12 January 2012. Details of the consultation are available on DECC's website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro-review.aspx

The Government will issue a formal response and lay draft legislation before Parliament as soon as possible after the consultation ends. Subject to Parliamentary and State Aids approval, the new bands will come into effect on 1 April 2013 as planned (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

USA

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish the details of gifts, hospitality and expenses received by the Minister for Climate Change during his visit to the US in March 2011. [75482]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 58W. I received no gifts above the recordable threshold, nor did I claim any expenses.

Wind Power: Energy Supply

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has provided for the development of onshore wind energy schemes in each of the last three years; and what funding for such purposes it plans to provide in each of the next three years. [75574]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 19 October 2011]:* The renewables obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising the deployment of large scale renewable electricity deployment. In the last three years for which figures are available, the number of renewables obligation certificates (ROCs) issued to onshore wind generation stations are given in the following table:

	Number of ROCs
2007-08	4,816,343
2008-09	6,220,107
2009-10	7,250,909

The RO is a market based subsidy and ROCs are tradable commodities which have no fixed price. The amount a supplier pays for a ROC is dependent on bilateral negotiations between supplier and generator. Ofgem publish details of the nominal value of a ROC each year. The nominal value represents the maximum worth of a ROC to a generator but is not necessarily the amount paid by a supplier. The nominal value of a ROC for each of the last three years is given in the following table:

	Nominal ROC value (£)
2007-08	52.95
2008-09	54.37
2009-10	52.36

The RO does not set funding targets for specific technologies. The number of ROCs onshore wind generators will receive over the next three years will depend on the number of MWh onshore wind stations generate which is dependent, among others, on station's load factors (which vary across the country). Support levels under the RO during the next banding period (2013-17) are currently under review and proposals have been published for consultation on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

The Electricity-Market Reform (EMR) White Paper set out a new support scheme, Feed-in Tariffs with Contracts for Difference (FIT CfD), for all low carbon generation including renewable technologies. The Government intend to legislate for the key elements of the EMR package, including the FIT CfD, through primary legislation in the second session of this Parliament. We intend that this legislation will reach statute books by spring 2013 so that the first low-carbon projects can be supported under its provisions in 2014. These dates are subject to parliamentary time being available and the will of Parliament. Once the FIT CfD is in place new onshore wind generation (which is not eligible for the small scale feed-in tariff) will have a one-off choice between receiving support either under the FIT CfD or under the RO for projects accredited before April 2017

Since 1 April 2010, feed-in tariffs (FITs) for small scale low carbon electricity generation have been available for onshore wind up to 5 MW. Details on expenditure for the first financial year of the scheme will be available later in the year. A comprehensive review of FITs is currently under way and will be published shortly for consultation.

EDUCATION

Children: Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision his Department has made for education for child victims of human trafficking. [74572]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* Under section 11 of the Children Act 2004, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, regardless of their immigration status or nationality. Victims of child trafficking have the same entitlement to education as all other children of compulsory school age. Trafficked children are likely to require additional educational support to help them overcome any barriers to learning and assessment. Schools should consider the specific needs of all children who are newly arrived from overseas, taking account of their cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and of their prior learning experiences.

Where a trafficked child becomes looked after, they will be entitled to the same services as all looked after children. They will be allocated a qualified social worker who will arrange for them to be placed in a care placement where they will be safeguarded. The social worker must assess the child's needs and draw up a care plan which will include plans for accommodation, educational support, and other services based on need (eg health services, which could include specialist treatment because of past experiences or pre-existing medical conditions).

Departmental Buildings

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the maintenance backlog on his Department's estate in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the time required to complete such maintenance. [74261]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has both planned and reactive maintenance arrangements in place across its estate to ensure that the Department does not have a backlog of maintenance.

The DFE estate is maintained to ensure that it fulfils its leasehold, statutory and sustainable operations obligations. DFE monitor supplier adherence to contractual obligations through active contract management and through Service Level Agreement and Key Performance Indicator reporting.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74338]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is as follows:

Building work 2011/12

During the financial year 2011-12 the Department will undertake minor building fabric alterations within the existing DFE 'family' estate to support the set-up of the Department's executive agencies. This forms part of the Department's arm's length body reform programme, linking into the Department's estates' strategy.

From an estates' strategy perspective the key driver is to successfully establish the agencies and to realise financial savings within the spending review period by reducing the number of properties occupied by the DFE family and by maximising the efficiency of those properties retained.

The set-up of the Standards and Testing Agency cost £32,500 The Department has reduced the cost of the project by circa £100,000 by reusing furniture and fittings. The cost of setting up the other agencies is not yet known.

Essential repairs

The Department also needs to undertake essential repairs to the roof at its Darlington facility. The cost of this work is not yet known.

Proposed work in 2012/13

The Department does not currently have plans to undertake building and/or refurbishment work in the next financial year.

Departmental Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many transport-related fines his Department and its predecessors have settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2007; and at what cost. [74341]

Tim Loughton: The Department's Travel and Subsistence policy clearly states that it is entirely the responsibility of employees to pay any transport-related fines they occur on official business.

There is no evidence held centrally to indicate that the Department has settled any transport-related fines on behalf of its staff since 2007. To provide absolute confirmation of this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73839]

Tim Loughton: Guidance on eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000 has been issued to all procurement staff in my Department and our ALBs. From the available records on procurement exercises I can say that, since the Cabinet Office announcement in February 2011, no procurement under £100,000 has used a pre-qualification questionnaire. We do not, however, maintain a central record of all contracting activity and cannot, therefore, confirm that PQQs have been eliminated for all contracts with a value below £100,000.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74210]

Tim Loughton: To obtain the information on what contracts the Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990 and between the monetary values indicated, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Further Education: Transport

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1022W, on further education: transport, what assessment his Department has made of the local authority transport statements for young people aged between 16 to 18 years for 2011-12. [74124]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 October 2011]*: The Department is undertaking an exercise to establish whether all local authorities have published transport policy statements as required by section 509AA of the Education Act 1996.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73726]

Tim Loughton: Since November 2010, the Department's Government Procurement Card (GPC) scheme has been administered by the Department for Work and Pensions under the shared services umbrella. The previous scheme was a direct contractual arrangement between the Department for Education, its predecessors, and Barclaycard. This ran from 2002 to October 2010.

The Department is only able to release data from April 2008 to June 2009, as detailed as follows. Information related to financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 could be provided only at a cost above the disproportionate cost threshold of £800. Cash withdrawal has been prevented across all Department for Education Government Procurement Cards since June 2009. A full list of cash withdrawal transactions from April 2008 to June 2009 is presented as follows:

Please note that some transactions were made by officials during official visits abroad.

	£
15 April 2008	16.67
18 April 2008	200.00
21 April 2008	50.00
28 May 2008	161.93
4 June 2008	30.00
12 June 2008	100.00
22 June 2008	40.00
30 June 2008	20.00
31 July 2008	50.00
28 August 2008	40.00
26 September 2008	30.00
28 September 2008	20.00
28 September 2008	40.00
29 September 2008	20.00
3 November 2008	20.00
7 November 2008	20.00
7 November 2008	20.00
10 November 2008	20.00
18 November 2008	20.00
21 November 2008	34.87
17 February 2009	3.00
17 February 2009	110.16
23 March 2009	[1]3.00
23 March 2009	110.16
12 May 2009	[1]3.00
21 May 2009	100.00
21 May 2009	918.21
15 June 2009	27.55
15 June 2009	[1]7.50
15 June 2009	[1]7.50
15 June 2009	[1]7.50
15 June 2009	[1]7.50
15 June 2009	250.00
15 June 2009	250.00
15 June 2009	250.00
15 June 2009	250.00
Total	3,258.55

[1] Cash handling fee

Students: Transport

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he expects to review the effectiveness of arrangements for home to school and college transport in 2011-12; and if so, when he expects to publish the outcomes of any such review. [74727]

Tim Loughton: A working group drawn from local authority and diocesan experts on transport, education and procurement has been identifying and collecting good practice in the key areas of procurement, planning and provision of home to school transport. I am expecting a draft report from that group shortly and will look to publish its findings after I have considered them. It is for individual local authorities to review their current arrangements since they are best placed to make transport provisions based on local circumstances and issues ensuring best value for money.

Youth Services: Redundancy

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many youth workers he expects to take redundancy in each local authority in 2011-12. [75425]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 October 2011]*: The Department does not hold or collect information on the number of youth workers being made redundant by local authorities. It is the responsibility of local authorities to determine, in the light of their assessment of local needs and circumstances, how best to configure their services and the workforce required to deliver them.

TREASURY

Business: Finance

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total amount of capital that has been made available to *(a)* individual or household-focused community development finance institutions (CDFIs), *(b)* business-focused CDFIs, *(c)* voluntary sector-focused CDFIs, *(d)* hybrid CDFIs and *(e)* any other category of CDFI or other institution through investments attracting Community Investment Tax Relief. [75667]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not hold information on the breakdown of community investment tax relief (CITR) accredited community development finance institutions' (CDFI) wider portfolios and therefore cannot provide the information requested.

However, no investments can be raised under CITR by CDFIs undertaking solely personal lending (investments attracting CITR must be onward lent to businesses, including social enterprises). CDFIs have reported raising around £83 million under CITR since the scheme began. We believe that approximately £13 million of this has been raised by CDFIs who lend to a wide range of businesses and £69 million by CDFIs specialising in lending to social enterprises.

The Government announced in Budget 2011 their intention to continue the scheme and to this end that they would renotify CITR to the European Commission and consult in advance of renotification on how the scheme can be made more effective.

Child Benefit: Eligibility

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reconsider the criteria for eligibility for child benefit. [75473]

Mr Gauke: As set out in the Spending Review 2010, the Government will withdraw child benefit from households with at least one higher rate taxpayer from January 2013. Further details of the changes to child benefit will be announced in due course.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects on families of planned changes to the eligibility for child benefit. [75477]

Mr Gauke: The Government have considered the impact of the withdrawal of child benefit from January 2013 from families containing at least one higher rate taxpayer. Around 1.5 million families will be affected by this change. Affected families are within the top 20% of the income distribution of all families (including those without children).

Food: Prices

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to raise the issue of food price volatility at the forthcoming G20 summit in Cannes. [74764]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has been, and will continue to be, actively involved in discussions with international and European counterparts in respect of price volatility in commodity markets.

Pensioners: British Nationals Abroad

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the financial implications for his Department of a pensioner moving abroad. [75581]

Mr Hoban: The Government have no plans to change the current indexation arrangements for uprating UK state pensions paid overseas. The UK state pension is payable worldwide but is uprated outside the UK only when there is a legal requirement or a reciprocal agreement to do so.

Public Expenditure

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on service delivery by HM Revenue and Customs. [75472]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has published a Business Plan 2011-15 and a Change Plan setting out the actions required to meet its spending review commitments, which include improving customer experience, maximising revenue flows and making efficiency savings.

The HMRC Change Programme will provide Treasury Ministers and senior officials with regular reports and assessments on progress and delivery.

Taxation: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the compliance costs for business as a result of changes to *(a)* income tax and *(b)* other taxation arrangements proposed in the Scotland Bill. [75317]

Mr Gauke: For income tax, software providers have already made changes to payroll software so that employers could operate the existing Scottish Variable Rate (SVR) of income tax. This means that most existing payroll software already provides for a different rate to be operated. Additional compliance costs may arise if the Scottish Government seek processes that differ from the SVR, for example introducing a higher degree of transparency in payslips and end of year forms (e.g. P60). Other areas that may incur additional compliance costs relate to the treatment of certain tax reliefs.

HMRC are considering these issues with stakeholders to inform the options for subsequent secondary legislation. Until these policies are determined, it is not possible to make estimates around any related compliance costs.

Any additional compliance costs for business from other taxation arrangements in the Bill will depend on the final design of these tax arrangements by the Scottish Government. Therefore, it is not possible to make any estimates around compliance costs for the new taxes.

This information was included in the Impact Assessment published alongside the Scotland Bill.

VAT: Imports

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on abolishing low value consignment relief. [75825]

Mr Gauke: The Government have been in contact with the European Commission to discuss its options to restrict Low Value Consignment Relief. I am now considering options for further changes to LVCR and hope to make announcements shortly.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received from *(a)* the authorities of Jersey and Guernsey and *(b)* businesses based in the Channel Islands regarding low value consignment relief in the last 12 months. [75877]

Mr Gauke: Treasury officials are in regular contact with the authorities in Jersey and Guernsey on various tax issues, including low value consignment relief. My officials have had a minimal number of representations from businesses based in the Islands in the last 12 months.

JUSTICE

Civil Disorder

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of under-18-year olds arrested for public disorder offences were interviewed by police without either a lawyer or an appropriate adult present. [73816]

Nick Herbert: Information on the provision of appropriate adults and lawyers in police interviews of suspects is not reported to the Home Office.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1338W, on civil disorder, what the *(a)* circumstances were and *(b)* location was of each offence under section 1 of the Public Order Act 1986; whether each prosecution was successful; and what sentence was handed down where the offender was found guilty. [74005]

Mr Blunt: Pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1338W, the total number of persons proceeded against, committed for trial and sentenced at magistrates court and found guilty, acquitted and sentenced at the Crown court for offences under section 1 of the Public Order Act 1986, by police force area from 2008 to 2010 (latest available) is provided in the table. Please note that only those police force areas where data have been reported are shown.

The number of cases proceeded against at the magistrates court in a particular year may not be completed in the same year. Defendants may have been committed for trial to the Crown court and then found guilty in the following year. It is also possible that defendants are found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) on the Court Proceedings Database does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. The circumstance and location of each offence is not recorded on the Court Proceedings Database.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty, by result or committed for trial at the Crown court, by result, for rioting under section 1 of the Public Order Act 1986, by Police Force Area[1], 2008-10[2,3,4]

	2008[5]	2009	2010
Magistrates courts			
Greater Manchester			
Proceeded against	1	—	—
Found guilty	1	—	—
Community sentence	1	—	—
Merseyside			
Proceeded against	—	1	—
Committed for trial at the Crown Court	—	1	—
Metropolitan Police			
Proceeded against	1	13	—
Found guilty	1	—	—
Committed for trial at the Crown Court	—	13	—
Community sentence	1	—	—
West Midlands			
Proceeded against	13	—	—
Committed for trial at the Crown Court	13	—	—

Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty, by result or committed for trial at the Crown court, by result, for rioting under section 1 of the Public Order Act 1986, by Police Force Area[1], 2008-10[2,3,4]

	2008[5]	2009	2010
Crown Courts			
Metropolitan Police			
Acquitted	—	—	1
West Midlands			
Found guilty	3	9	—
Acquitted	—	3	—
Immediate custody	3	9	—

[1] Only those police forces in England and Wales are shown where data have been reported.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] The number of defendants proceeded against in a particular year may exceed the number found guilty as the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in an earlier year and the defendants were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year; or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have appeared before Camberwell Green magistrates court charged with an offence related to the public disorder of August 2011; [75688]

(2) what charges related to the public disorder of August 2011 were brought in cases heard at Camberwell Green magistrates court; [75689]

(3) what the age was of the *(a)* youngest and *(b)* oldest person who appeared before Camberwell Green magistrates court charged with an offence related to the public disorder of August 2011; [75690]

(4) what proportion of people who appeared before Camberwell Green magistrates court charged with an offence related to the public disorder of August 2011 were under 25 years. [75691]

Mr Blunt: The available information required to answer this question is currently being collated. I will write to the right hon. and learned Lady as soon as it is available. A copy of this response will be placed in the House Library.

Courts: Fines

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was imposed in fines in each *(a)* region of HM Courts and Tribunals Service and *(b)* local criminal justice board area in each of the last four years; and how much is outstanding in fines from each year in each such area. [75971]

Mr Djanogly: Information on how much was imposed and the amount outstanding in fines in each region of HM Courts and Tribunal Service and Local Criminal Justice Board area in the last four financial years is set out in the following tables:

Enforcement of financial penalties

Region

			£
	Financial year	*Imposed*	*Outstanding balance*
London	2007-08	63,881,319	117,318,452
	2008-09	72,107,785	126,959,900
	2009-10	81,628,882	142,475,774
	2010-11	87,207,760	161,920,074
Midlands	2007-08	71,120,336	92,523,423
	2008-09	70,501,415	95,995,178
	2009-10	68,543,984	101,524,907
	2010-11	66,488,810	95,822,708
North East	2007-08	50,078,508	52,969,638
	2008-09	52,833,097	59,901,794
	2009-10	54,280,765	64,063,145
	2010-11	48,726,159	61,770,165
North West	2007-08	51,120,079	78,630,999
	2008-09	55,569,454	86,762,529
	2009-10	53,718,101	90,098,475
	2010-11	57,222,645	96,526,239
South East	2007-08	76,644,394	94,764,649
	2008-09	80,150,018	104,151,377
	2009-10	84,110,365	111,483,442
	2010-11	90,033,862	113,195,267
South West	2007-08	40,157,335	38,869,240
	2008-09	40,258,242	44,079,253
	2009-10	41,324,159	49,821,783
	2010-11	40,298,229	51,787,750
Wales	2007-08	23,567,911	25,554,167
	2008-09	21,701,627	27,040,593

Enforcement of financial penalties

Region

£

	Financial year	*Imposed*	*Outstanding balance*
	2009-10	23,054,337	29,007,777
	2010-11	23,149,430	28,537,092

Notes:
1. Imposed: The total amount imposed plus net transfers.
2. Amount outstanding: The total debt owing and includes fines which are being collected by instalments and outstanding monies from previous months/years.

Enforcement of financial penalties

LCJB area

£

	Financial year	*Imposed*	*Outstanding balance*
Avon and Somerset	2007-08	10,746,004	9,379,982
	2008-09	10,046,264	11,184,221
	2009-10	9,586,385	11,885,521
	2010-11	9,353,827	11,001,000
Bedfordshire	2007-08	3,716,219	2,929,160
	2008-09	4,041,563	3,488,383
	2009-10	4,512,392	3,818,893
	2010-11	3,881,369	3,700,364
Cambridgeshire	2007-08	5,257,762	5,471,185
	2008-09	4,563,054	4,582,639
	2009-10	4,968,180	4,807,179
	2010-11	4,977,240	5,180,891
Cheshire	2007-08	7,933,967	11,207,571
	2008-09	7,334,673	11,809,900
	2009-10	7,502,097	11,485,719
	2010-11	7,306,954	10,588,179
Cleveland	2007-08	3,780,148	5,886,347
	2008-09	3,615,467	5,606,269
	2009-10	3,868,689	5,174,134
	2010-11	3,656,406	4,821,668
Cumbria	2007-08	3,877,892	3,225,093
	2008-09	4,100,879	3,368,566
	2009-10	3,817,499	3,384,180
	2010-11	3,584,281	3,342,007
Derbyshire	2007-08	6,128,228	7,487,182
	2008-09	5,840,197	7,910,599
	2009-10	4,844,153	7,394,599
	2010-11	5,463,233	6,733,251
Devon and Cornwall	2007-08	9,956,166	6,356,276
	2008-09	7,759,109	6,407,447
	2009-10	7,770,868	7,118,202
	2010-11	8,475,666	7,844,225
Dorset	2007-08	3,759,611	4,878,557
	2008-09	4,627,389	5,679,185
	2009-10	4,888,527	6,306,732
	2010-11	4,330,937	6,782,800
Durham	2007-08	3,217,879	2,748,457
	2008-09	3,542,418	3,379,032
	2009-10	3,192,452	3,595,330
	2010-11	3,034,343	3,616,796
Dyfed Powys	2007-08	3,055,546	3,324,554
	2008-09	3,538,439	3,955,288
	2009-10	3,270,439	4,325,342
	2010-11	3,188,132	4,301,985
Essex	2007-08	11,017,192	10,068,331
	2008-09	11,525,831	12,635,361
	2009-10	12,156,939	12,852,199
	2010-11	11,154,006	12,296,641
Gloucestershire	2007-08	2,772,484	3,609,646
	2008-09	2,517,262	3,595,701
	2009-10	2,904,006	3,651,902
	2010-11	2,628,523	3,463,203
Greater Manchester	2007-08	18,632,285	27,384,881
	2008-09	19,635,012	30,659,064
	2009-10	19,267,431	33,159,738
	2010-11	22,558,446	39,631,334
Gwent	2007-08	4,523,699	5,857,625
	2008-09	3,985,405	5,903,094
	2009-10	4,528,698	5,617,483
	2010-11	4,451,015	5,699,048
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	2007-08	8,564,753	10,933,502
	2008-09	9,951,872	12,127,133
	2009-10	11,191,949	15,118,051
	2010-11	10,973,867	16,426,330
Hertfordshire	2007-08	8,364,744	10,624,124
	2008-09	8,285,229	11,976,897
	2009-10	9,382,421	13,565,178
	2010-11	18,335,973	14,126,149
Humberside	2007-08	6,201,707	9,561,189
	2008-09	6,910,237	10,257,748
	2009-10	6,756,725	10,076,884
	2010-11	6,160,678	9,913,804
Kent	2007-08	11,484,589	17,645,077
	2008-09	12,546,283	19,402,260
	2009-10	11,461,258	20,522,744
	2010-11	11,688,667	21,333,868
Lancashire	2007-08	10,906,582	12,236,463
	2008-09	12,392,009	13,870,361
	2009-10	11,104,491	13,111,327
	2010-11	11,555,388	12,476,223
Leicestershire	2007-08	5,691,250	5,475,952
	2008-09	5,877,021	4,807,071

Enforcement of financial penalties

£

LCJB area	Financial year	Imposed	Outstanding balance
	2009-10	6,030,574	5,881,157
	2010-11	5,959,233	5,513,727
Lincolnshire	2007-08	4,191,695	5,754,706
	2008-09	5,096,991	6,309,425
	2009-10	4,823,958	5,957,325
	2010-11	4,201,748	4,955,945
London	2007-08	63,881,319	117,318,452
	2008-09	72,107,785	126,959,900
	2009-10	81,628,882	142,475,774
	2010-11	87,207,760	161,920,074
Merseyside	2007-08	9,769,352	24,576,991
	2008-09	12,106,880	27,054,637
	2009-10	12,026,583	28,957,511
	2010-11	12,217,575	30,488,496
Norfolk	2007-08	4,791,859	4,911,783
	2008-09	5,078,267	5,258,805
	2009-10	4,568,442	5,165,121
	2010-11	4,528,716	5,269,765
North Wales	2007-08	4,483,844	6,367,896
	2008-09	4,813,034	7,303,005
	2009-10	5,900,141	8,598,513
	2010-11	5,488,372	7,764,756
North Yorkshire	2007-08	4,323,495	3,214,673
	2008-09	4,371,260	3,797,705
	2009-10	4,219,649	4,117,398
	2010-11	3,219,324	3,805,409
Northamptonshire	2007-08	4,430,561	5,113,088
	2008-09	4,330,940	5,544,837
	2009-10	4,721,076	5,576,232
	2010-11	4,607,666	5,492,262
Northumbria	2007-08	9,720,095	11,460,962
	2008-09	10,463,694	13,835,201
	2009-10	10,568,454	14,761,027
	2010-11	9,070,628	14,511,908
Nottinghamshire	2007-08	6,838,99[illegible]	4,501,937
	2008-09	6,654,544	4,855,449
	2009-10	6,382,228	5,539,840
	2010-11	7,889,334	5,932,418
South Wales	2007-08	11,504,822	10,004,092
	2008-09	9,364,748	9,879,206
	2009-10	9,355,059	10,466,440
	2010-11	10,021,911	10,771,303
South Yorkshire	2007-08	7,406,408	7,207,038
	2008-09	9,048,523	8,173,418
	2009-10	9,039,246	9,270,998
	2010-11	7,953,779	9,244,102
Staffordshire	2007-08	8,766,857	11,728,465
	2008-09	8,698,559	11,509,685
	2009-10	8,136,476	11,214,527
	2010-11	7,510,783	11,043,758
Suffolk	2007-08	4,227,603	2,648,849
	2008-09	6,053,635	4,224,885
	2009-10	5,555,237	4,728,312
	2010-11	4,414,587	4,846,578
Surrey	2007-08	6,366,071	5,273,909
	2008-09	6,137,960	5,696,496
	2009-10	6,189,029	6,125,559
	2010-11	6,079,000	6,640,419
Sussex	2007-08	8,562,023	12,726,870
	2008-09	8,098,108	13,939,448
	2009-10	10,433,954	15,390,751
	2010-11	10,068,614	15,761,108
Thames Valley	2007-08	12,856,332	22,465,362
	2008-09	13,820,088	22,946,204
	2009-10	14,882,513	24,507,506
	2010-11	14,905,690	24,039,486
Warwickshire	2007-08	2,875,249	3,221,730
	2008-09	2,786,476	3,006,384
	2009-10	3,330,822	3,279,018
	2010-11	4,348,581	3,200,486
West Mercia	2007-08	8,099,918	9,313,961
	2008-09	9,447,891	10,709,950
	2009-10	8,422,160	12,060,610
	2010-11	7,188,415	11,058,154
West Midlands	2007-08	24,097,581	39,926,402
	2008-09	21,768,797	41,341,778
	2009-10	21,852,536	44,621,598
	2010-11	19,319,817	41,892,706
West Yorkshire	2007-08	15,428,776	12,890,971
	2008-09	14,881,498	14,852,420
	2009-10	16,635,550	17,067,374
	2010-11	15,631,000	15,856,479
Wiltshire	2007-08	4,358,317	3,711,278
	2008-09	5,356,348	5,085,565
	2009-10	4,982,425	5,741,376
	2010-11	4,535,409	6,270,190

Notes:

1. Imposed: The total amount imposed plus net transfers.

2. Amount outstanding: The total debt owing and includes fines which are being collected by instalments and outstanding monies from previous months/years.

Courts: Maintenance

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the cost of backlog maintenance of each court building in Wales. [75972]

Mr Djanogly: Draft backlog maintenance figures for the HM Courts and Tribunals Service estate for 2011 have been received from each region but have not yet been finalised. I will write to the right hon. Member when these become available.

Courts: Witnesses

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were heard in each court in Wales between *(a)* January and March, *(b)* April and June and *(c)* July and September 2011; and on how many occasions in each court a witness failed to attend in each such period. [75973]

Mr Djanogly: Data on the number of cases completed in the Crown courts of Wales and on the number of completed criminal proceedings in the magistrates courts in Wales by Local Justice Area (LJA) for the first quarter (January to March 2011) and second quarter (April to June 2011) of 2011 can be found in tables 1 and 2.

Information about the total number of witnesses failing to attend a trial in the magistrates courts and Crown court is not held centrally, as it is not recorded by court staff electronically as part of their routine daily administrative duties.

However, information on the number criminal trials which were either 'ineffective' (does not commence on due date and is re-listed) or 'cracked' (did not commence on the due date and was not listed) due to non-attendance witnesses as the primary reason are centrally collected. Data on the number of ineffective or cracked trials in the Crown court due to the absence of a witness in Wales can also be found in table 1 and similar data for the magistrates court in Wales by LJA can be found in table 2 for the same time periods.

Completed proceedings and data on cracked and ineffective trials in the magistrates courts are collected at LJA and as a result we are unable to separately identify cases completed at different magistrates courts.

Data for the third quarter (July to September) are currently unavailable and will be published in January 2012.

Table 1. Number of cases disposed of and ineffective and cracked trials in the Crown courts of Wales, Q1 to Q2 2011

	Number of case disposals		*Ineffective or cracked trials due to non-attendance or withdrawal of witness as primary reason*	
Court	*Q1 2011*	*Q2 2011*	*Q1 2011*	*Q2 2011*
Cardiff Crown court	957	943	10	13
Merthyr Tydfil combined court centre	310	268	2	4
Mold Crown court + Welshpool Crown court	168	251	0	2
Swansea Crown court	345	290	2	2
Caernarfon Crown court	116	189	1	0
Carmarthen Crown court	132	90	0	1
Haverfordwest Crown court	54	38	1	0
Total	2,082	2,069	16	22

Notes:
1. Disposals are total cases dealt with.
2. Reasons for ineffective or cracked trials are based on the primary reason stated, witness is absent or the "Prosecution end case: witness absent/withdrawn", these cases represent those trials that did not go ahead due to no witness being present.

Source:
HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

Table 2. Number of completed proceedings of and ineffective and cracked trials in the magistrates courts for the local justice areas (LJAs) in Wales, Q1 to Q2 2011

Local justice area (LJA)	*Number of completed criminal proceedings*		*Ineffective trials due to lack of witness as primary reason*	
	Q1 2011	*Q2 2011*	*Q1 2011*	*Q2 2011*
Wrexham Maelor	245	1090	13	10
Flintshire	2,204	904	14	5
Denbighshire	780	836	6	9
Conwy	812	707	4	13
Llanelli	875	961	2	3
Ceredigion	339	289	2	1
Carmarthen	687	414	0	0
Dinefwr	353	408	0	0
Gwent	5,290	5134	46	33
Anglesey (Ynys Môn)	489	377	5	5
Gwynedd	960	718	5	3
Cynon Valley	356	336	4	1
Merthyr Tydfil	953	755	10	5
Miskin	1,828	1352	21	17
Newcastle and Ogmore	1,156	1216	7	14

Table 2. Number of completed proceedings of and ineffective and cracked trials in the magistrates courts for the local justice areas (LJAs) in Wales, Q1 to Q2 2011

Local justice area (LJA)	*Number of completed criminal proceedings*		*Ineffective trials due to lack of witness as primary reason*	
	Q1 2011	*Q2 2011*	*Q1 2011*	*Q2 2011*
Cardiff	5,115	4801	57	42
Vale of Glamorgan	925	795	10	5
De Brycheiniog	296	254	2	2
Radnorshire and North Brecknock	71	72	0	0
Montgomeryshire	362	310	2	2
Pembrokeshire	595	639	6	0
Neath and Port Talbot	1,610	1314	11	5
Swansea	2,104	1765	5	7
Total	28,405	25,447	232	182

Note:
Reasons for ineffective or cracked trials are based on the primary reason stated, witness is absent or the "Prosecution end case: witness absent/withdrawn", these cases represent those trials that did not go ahead due to no witness being present.
Source:
HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system
Trials, HM Courts and Tribunals Service Performance Database (OPT)

Debt Collection

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much revenue his Department received from *(a)* summons for debt, *(b)* liability orders and *(c)* applications by councils for debt summonses in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will estimate the level of profit over costs arising from each activity. [75369]

Mr Djanogly: The revenue collected (net income) in the financial year 2010-11 for *(a)* summons for debt (in the civil county and High Court) was £253.0 million; and *(b)* liability orders (council and Child Support Agency) was £11.1 million of which £9.8 million relates to council tax liability orders.

It is not possible to provide the revenue for debt summonses that related to applications issued by councils. These data are not currently captured separately on the case management system in the HMCTS county and High Courts. The revenue collected from councils issuing council tax liability orders (in the magistrates courts) is provided above under point *(b)*.

The HMCTS published accounts for 2010-11 identified that:

(a) civil business achieved 99% full cost recovery with a £3.6 million shortfall of which £1.8 million (50%) related to debt summonses; and

(b) magistrates civil business achieved 94% full cost recovery with a shortfall of £1.2 million.

Freedom of Information

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the public interest test is applied appropriately to the handling of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [75857]

Mr Djanogly: Both the Ministry of Justice and the Information Commissioner's Office provide guidance to public authorities on applying the public interest test under the Freedom of Information Act. That guidance can be found at:

www.justice.gov.uk/guidance

and

http://www.ico.gov.uk/for_organisations/guidance_index

respectively. It is open to requesters to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office if they consider that the public interest has been inappropriately applied in relation to a particular request.

Hillsborough Stadium

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister since his appointment on the unredacted release of the Hillsborough Cabinet minutes. [74296]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 506W.

The Prime Minister and I agree on the need to provide full transparency about the Hillsborough disaster through full public disclosure. All the Cabinet Office papers have been shared with the Hillsborough Independent Panel and the Government are happy for all the papers to be released as soon the panel so decides, in consultation with the families. The Prime Minister and I expect them to be shared with the Hillsborough families first and then to the wider public.

Office of the Chief Coroner

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Members for Luton South and for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland of 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 878, on Office of the Chief Coroner, which of the provisions in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 the Government does not propose to bring into effect. [75725]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to urgent reform of the coroner system and therefore intend to implement the vast majority of part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (the '2009 Act') as soon as practicably possible once the Chief Coroner's functions have been transferred via the Public Bodies Bill.

The Government have announced previously that sections 17, 36, 38, 39, 40 and 51 will not be implemented. However, where possible we will seek to achieve the objectives of some of these provisions by other means. For example, instead of implementing section 17 we will continue to publish quarterly statistics for inquests into the death of service personnel overseas and will implement training provisions under section 37 of the 2009 Act.

The Government are continuing to consider the feasibility of a single Coroner for Treasure and to assess the extent to which measures on treasure in the 2009 Act may be implemented within budgetary constraints.

Prisons: Education

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent assessment is of education provision in prisons. [75557]

Mr Blunt: The MOJ and BIS commenced a review of offender learning in England in the summer of 2010. The outcome of the review was published in May 2011 under the title "Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation", which is available via:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/m/11-828-making-prisons-work-skills-for-rehabilitation

Copies have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

In Wales responsibility for education in prisons was devolved to the Welsh Government in April 2009. In 2010-11 the National Offender Management Service commissioned an in-house needs assessment and gap analysis of the learning and skills provision in public prisons in Wales. This was to ensure delivery and resources meet the learning requirements of the population to improve their employability outcomes.

Reoffenders

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people released from prison after serving a 12-month sentence or less were convicted of an offence within 12 months of their release in the last two years for which figures are available. [75554]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of people released from prison after serving a sentence of less than 12 months who were convicted of an offence within 12 months of their release. The numbers and re-conviction rates are based on releases in the first quarter of 2008 and of 2009.

A re-conviction is defined as any offence committed in the one-year follow up period proven by a court conviction in that period or a further six month waiting period.

	Number of offenders	*Number re-convicted*	*Re-conviction rate (percentage)*
2008 Q1	10,251	6,262	61.1
2009 Q1	9,924	5,892	59.4

These re-conviction rates can be found in Table A5 of 'Adult re-convictions: results from the 2009 cohort' on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

NORTHERN IRELAND

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73719]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available before 12 April 2010 following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Enterprise Zones

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have met the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science in the Welsh Government to discuss enterprise zones since his appointment. [73960]

Mr Prisk: HM Government set out in advance of the budget their commitment to working with the devolved Administrations in establishing enterprise zones if they so wish. The Government have made funding available in the budget to support enterprise zones in the devolved Administrations through the Barnett formula.

While there have been no direct meetings between the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) and the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science in the Welsh Government to discuss enterprise zones, officials from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, Department of Communities and Local Government and HM Treasury have provided advice and support about establishing enterprise zones in Wales to officials from the Welsh Government's Department for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science.

BIS officials have passed to their Welsh Government colleagues information on the criteria for agreeing an enterprise zone and the procedures involved in setting up an enterprise zone. BIS officials routinely engage with their colleagues in the devolved Administrations regarding economic development policy. The discussion of enterprise zones at the Four Nations Forum in June 2011 provides a recent example of this collaboration.

Advertising Protection Agency

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has held recent discussions with the Advertising Protection Agency; and what was discussed. [74150]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

In answering this question, the reference to the Advertising Protection Agency has been taken to mean 'The Advertising Protection Agency' (TAPA) and not the 'Advertising Standards Agency' (ASA).

As such, no recent discussions have been held.

Apprentices

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what measures he has introduced to encourage large employers to recruit apprentices in 2011; how many apprentices have been recruited to such companies; and which companies have taken on apprentices as a result of such measures. [75447]

Mr Hayes: On 6 September 2011 I announced a package of new measures to make it easier for large employers who directly contract with the Skills Funding Agency to take on apprentices. Payments will be simplified, contracts streamlined, and a number of data returns and audit requirements eliminated.

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has employer service managers who provide account management services to large employers.

Examples of some of the new contracts include:

Nordic Pioneer Ltd

Everest Home Improvements

The Co-operative

Kingswood Learning and Leisure

Between August 2010 and April 2011 over 5,000 large employers (250-5,000 staff) took on a total of 30,000 apprentices, a 50% rise in starts in this category compared to the same period in 2009-10.

Bankruptcy

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to safeguard small and medium-sized enterprises from bankruptcy. [74729]

Mr Prisk: The Government have put in place a number of measures including:

continuing funding for the Business Debtline for the next three years. The Debtline provides free, confidential and independent advice on how to deal with debt problems. The website can be found here:

www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

HMRC's Time To Pay service will continue to offer pay arrangements to viable businesses which are experiencing genuine but short term difficulties in paying their tax.

transforming the advice and information available to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)—for example on cash flow management, cutting costs and winning new customers—by supporting an increase in business-to-business mentoring and developing better, expert web-based advice 24/7 at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

continuing to ensure viable SMEs can access finance. The Merlin agreement, co-ordinated by Government in February 2011, committed the banks to new lending capacity of £76 billion for UK SMEs in 2011. Government have also worked with banks to set up an appeals process for SMEs declined access to finance, as part of banks' commitments in the British Bankers Association taskforce. Government are also providing support to SMEs seeking to access finance through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) and the sister scheme for exporters (exEFG).

helping business manage cash flow. Central Government Departments now aim to pay 80% of undisputed invoices within five days; in August 2011 this Department paid 93.6% of its invoices within five days. We have also worked with the Institute of Credit Management to develop a series of Managing Cash Flow guides available at:

http://www.creditmanagement.org.uk/bisguides.htm

with nearly 250,000 downloads since December 2008. The Prompt Payment Code:

http://www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk/

seeks to identify payment exemplars across both the public and private sectors and signatories to the code are required to pay within agreed terms and to communicate effectively with suppliers.

In addition, with respect to the terms of liquidation for SMEs, the Government will launch a consultation on increasing the petition debt levels for creditors. The petition debt level has not been increased since the Insolvency Act first came into force in 1986 and so remains at £750. To be able to threaten someone with bankruptcy for such a small amount is, we believe, disproportionate. The consultation will cover increasing the petition debt level in both personal and corporate cases, which would affect the terms for SMEs.

Banks

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the banking industry on the role of relationship managers in bank branches. [74753]

Mr Prisk: I meet with representatives of the banking industry frequently to discuss a range of issues, including ensuring banks fulfil their commitments set out in the British Bankers Association (BBA) Taskforce, which includes actions to improve customer relationships and provide better information and promote understanding between banks and customers. Meetings take place both bilaterally and through fora such as the quarterly Small Business Economic Forum which I chair.

Boats: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what position he plans to adopt at the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation on 25 October 2011 in Brussels in respect of the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on recreational craft and personal watercraft; and what estimate he has made of the potential cost to the UK of the proposed directive. [74564]

Mr Prisk: Officials from this Department and UK Permanent Representative will attend the meeting. They will express support for the broad aims and objectives of the proposal. They will welcome the work undertaken by the European Commission that has been done in identifying areas within the current recreational craft Directive that could be improved to provide greater clarity of the obligations imposed by the directive. This will help to reduce undue burdens placed on business (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises), and facilitate cross-border trade. The UK will address those features of the proposal itself that risk being unduly burdensome on the sector and UK operators. While an official impact assessment is still under preparation, one has been prepared by the European Commission that suggests that the advantage for the UK industry is expected to be of the order of £700,000 to £4,200,000 per annum.

Business Link

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support he plans to make available for small and medium-sized businesses following the closure of Business Link. [73325]

Mr Prisk: From 25 November, individuals and businesses will be able to get better business information and advice on starting, improving and growing their business online at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

As part of this package:

Two new services will be launched on www.businesslink.gov.uk:

"My New Business"—an enhanced service providing tailored support to take people through all the tasks needed to start their own business;

"Growth and Improvement"—a new service for businesses looking to improve or grow, containing interactive tools to help businesses diagnose and solve business problems, a business support finder, video case studies, peer-to-peer networking and an online events directory.

The Business Link helpline will be fully operational from 25 November and will support people who are unable to access the internet or have difficulty in doing so.

www.Mentorsme.co.uk, Britain's first online mentoring portal, was launched on 4 July and provides a single point of access for those seeking mentoring and those seeking to be mentors. The portal enables businesses that are looking for advice on starting up, growing their companies or needing financial mentoring to connect with experienced business people who have the skills to support them. 56 organisations have signed up to the portal and we have over 10,000 mentors available across the UK.

A new service, Business Coaching for Growth will be established across England from January 2012, providing high quality business coaching support for small and medium-sized firms with high growth potential to enable them to develop and implement growth plans. It will also fast-track them into finance, knowledge and other networks and to other services such as UK Trade and Investment.

A streamlined Solutions for Business support portfolio was announced in March, targeted at activities where a Government lead is required, for example on supporting complex trade deals and challenging technology developments.

On 14 October, we also announced details of the new £57 million contract to deliver the Manufacturing Advisory Service which works with manufacturers to identify and implement productivity and innovation improvements to improve their competitiveness. Starting in January, this will be a national service locally delivered and tailored to meet the needs of individual businesses and local economic circumstances. The new service will focus on helping SME manufacturers in England to develop advanced manufacturing capabilities and could help create an estimated £1.5 billion in economic growth, 23,000 jobs and safeguard 50,000 over three years.

Business: Advisory Services

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many business mentors *(a)* had joined his Department's mentoring network and *(b)* were available to provide guidance to businesses through the mentoring network on (i) 3 July 2011 and (ii) the most recent date for which figures are available. [75038]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 713W, and 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 796W, regarding information on the number of mentors available through the mentoring network and the publication of such information.

Mentorsme.co.uk, Britain's first online mentoring gateway, was launched on 4 July 2011 and provides a single point of access for those seeking mentoring and those seeking to be mentors, covering the whole of the UK. We do not have data to answer how many business mentors were available to provide guidance to businesses prior to the launch of the mentoring portal.

At launch, the portal included approximately 40 mentoring organisations, providing access to around 10,000 mentors and this number continues to grow. Applications from other mentoring organisations who wish to be listed on the portal are currently being screened and more organisations will be added in the coming months as they register interest, providing they meet certain minimum standards. I am determined to maintain the quality of the mentors available through this network and am not willing to compromise this in order to increase the numbers more quickly.

The launch of the portal is an important first step on the road to making mentoring the norm for businesses, whether starting out or with ambitions to grow.

We are now working with the British Banking Association (BBA) to develop mentorsme.co.uk and to encourage more experienced business people to become volunteer mentors.

Business: Regulation

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the Beecroft report commissioned by his Department into reducing the burden of regulation on businesses. [75882]

Mr Davey: Adrian Beecroft has been asked to contribute his thoughts to Government to support the work on examining the burden of cross-government employment-related law. This is part of a wider consultation with stakeholders for the Red Tape Challenge. His views will feed into that process, and we do not plan to publish them.

Economic Growth: Olympic Games 2012

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the modelling of economic growth potential of the Olympic host boroughs contained in the report by Oxford Economics, "Six Host Boroughs Strategic Regeneration Framework-Economic Model", published in November 2010. [73455]

Mr Prisk: The Department's economic analysts have seen the report from Oxford Economics and consider it a valuable contribution to strategic thinking and planning for the east London area. Officials from the Department have met with representatives from the host boroughs to discuss the report.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has *(a)* made to and *(b)* received from the Mayor of London on the economic growth of the Olympic host boroughs. [73519]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has made no representations to the Mayor of London, nor received any, specifically on economic growth in the Olympic host boroughs.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he has had in the last 12 months on the economic growth of the Olympic host boroughs. [73520]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has had no meetings in the last 12 months specifically on economic growth in the Olympic host boroughs. Officials from the Department have met with representatives from the Host Boroughs Unit to discuss economic growth and the Oxford Economics report published in November 2010.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support economic growth in the London borough of *(a)* Barking and Dagenham, *(b)* Greenwich, *(c)* Hackney, *(d)* Newham, *(e)* Tower Hamlets and *(f)* Waltham Forest. [73521]

Mr Prisk: Responsibility for promoting economic growth in London is largely devolved to the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority (GLA) and its associated agencies, including the London Development Agency (LDA).

Information supplied by the LDA—provisional, as it is based on forecast outturn for the current year—shows that current year spending on some 168 projects designed to promote economic growth in these boroughs totals £16,433,455, broken down as follows:

	£
Barking and Dagenham	1,815,325
Greenwich	1,702,647
Hackney	1,727,708
Newham	6,529,733
Tower Hamlets	3,385,384
Waltham Forest	1,272,159

In addition, these boroughs benefit from a share of £38.5 million spending this year on pan-London projects supported by the LDA/GLA as well as spending on local colleges and other providers by the Skills Funding Agency and National Apprenticeships Service; and businesses from Business Link and other investment which cannot readily be quantified at borough level.

The designation of the Royal Docks in Newham as an Enterprise Zone is further evidence of the Government's support and encouragement for new investment and economic growth in the area, building on the very significant boost the Olympic and Paralympic Games investment in infrastructure, jobs and training is providing.

Education: English Language

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the length of waiting lists for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses for *(a)* all those seeking to participate and *(b)* people granted refugee status. [73873]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* Data are not collected on the length of waiting lists for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses.

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirst release/sfr_current

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of learners who were in receipt of the fee remission for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses also receive active benefits in the Coventry local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [70352]

Mr Hayes: We do not directly record what type of benefits people are receiving when they take up training. We do, however, collect information on why a learner has received fee remission for a particular learning aim they undertake. From these data we can provide some information on claimants, but this should be used with caution given it does not provide an accurate picture of the full range of entitlements that a person has.

In Coventry local education authority there were 3,240 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) adult (19+) aims in 2009/10, the latest academic year for which final year data are available. (As learners can enrol on more than one aim, 2,310 learners participated in these aims.)

Based on the "fees waived" field in the Individualised Learner Record, 2,850 aims were in receipt of fee remission. Of these, 1,700 (59%, based on unrounded figures) received fee remission as the learner was in receipt of an income-related benefit.

The Government currently provide 50% fee remission for all learners in England participating on ESOL courses who are eligible for public funded skills provision. Those on income based-benefits are eligible for full fee remission. Further education colleges and training organisations also have local discretion to provide fully subsidised courses for people on a wider range of benefits where the training is to help them enter employment.

From August 2011, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment, full Government funding will be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of jobseekers allowance or in the employment and support allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group. We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

Further education (FE) colleges and training providers are responsible for meeting the needs of their local community, and increased freedoms and flexibilities that we have introduced will help them respond and determine within their funding where this is prioritised.

Employment: Exhibitions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department provided support to the World Skills 2011 event held at the Excel Arena on 5 to 8 October 2011. [74480]

Mr Hayes: Yes, alongside significant investment from the private sector. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is the Government sponsor of WorldSkills London 2011, and its legacy.

The event, the largest international vocational skills competition in modern history, was a resounding success and the UK was ranked fifth out of 48 countries, surpassing our performance at the last WorldSkills competition in Calgary in 2009.

Further Education: Disability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to improve the provision and quality of advice on *(a)* personal budgets, *(b)* fees requirements and *(c)* benefit entitlements for students with disabilities or learning difficulties wishing to pursue further education; and if he will make a statement. [74965]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* Information, advice and guidance on careers and learning is available through the Next Step service. Individuals can seek advice on all forms of financial support for learning, and those with learning difficulties or disabilities are a priority for intensive, ongoing support.

From April 2012, the new National Careers Service will replace Next Step. Providers of careers guidance in the National Careers Service will need to meet a rigorous national quality standard. On 12 October, I announced that this would be the revised matrix standard, which will require employers to demonstrate that they have set frameworks for employee development which recognise appropriate professional standards.

The Government intend to publish a Participation Strategy later this year setting out the support available to help young people engaged with education, employment and training.

Further Education: Refugees

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of people granted refugee status who were claiming full fee remission for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses prior to August 2011. [73867]

Mr Hayes: We do not directly record the number of learners who have been granted refugee status. We do, however, collect information on why a learner has received fee remission for a particular learning aim they undertake. From data we can provide information on learners who are in receipt of full fee remission through being an asylum seeker in receipt of the equivalent of an income-based state benefit, but this should be used with caution given that it does not provide a full picture of the range of entitlements that a person has.

Based on the "fees waived" field in the Individualised Learner Record, in the 2009/10 academic year, the latest year for which final data are available, 7,200 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) enrolments for adult (19+) learners received fee remission through being an asylum seeker in receipt of the equivalent of an income-based benefit.

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011 at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in central Government *(a)* capital expenditure and *(b)* procurement of goods on the level of manufacturing output in 2010. [74522]

Mr Prisk: Available data and evidence are not yet sufficient to enable BIS to undertake a reliable assessment of the impact on manufacturing output in 2010 at this time. The Government's top priority is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Sound public finances are essential for sustainable growth. We are also taking action as set out in the Plan for Growth to create the best possible climate for enterprise and growth in the UK, including action to support advanced manufacturing by encouraging higher levels of innovation, exports, business investment and technical skills as well as cutting excessive red tape.

Higher Education: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency in each ethnic group *(a)* applied to enter university and *(b)* were successful in their application in each of the last five years. [73079]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants and accepted applicants domiciled in Birmingham Ladywood[1] constituency by ethnicity[2]

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
Ethnic background	Applicants	Accepted	Applicants	Accepted	Applicants	Accepted	Applicants	Accepted	Applicants	Accepted
Black, Asian, mixed and other ethnic backgrounds	808	582	892	646	982	728	1,107	779	1,281	613
White	96	72	100	75	101	73	146	103	175	124
Unknown	258	229	232	188	315	263	323	261	202	151

Applicants and accepted applicants domiciled in Birmingham Ladywood[1] constituency by ethnicity[2]

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
Ethnic background	Applicants	Accepted	Applicants	Accepted	Applicants	Accepted	Applicants	Accepted	Applicants	Accepted
Grand total	1,162	883	1,224	909	1,398	1,064	1,576	1,143	1,658	1,088

[1] Birmingham Ladywood constituency has been identified using the home postcode regardless of declared area of permanent residence.

2. While completion of the ethnic origin field is mandatory for those with a declared area of permanent residence in the UK, applicants can indicate that they prefer not to say what their ethnic origin is. Data on the ethnic origin of applicants are not passed to institutions until after the selection process. Where the ethnic origin has not been detailed in this analysis this is recorded as "Unknown".

Higher Education: Italy

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the outcome was of the recent meeting between the Minister of State for Universities and Science and the Italian Education Minister Gelmini regarding British lettori working in Italian universities. [74759]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* It is not the normal practice of the Government to disclose details of their discussions with foreign Governments.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the outcome was of his meeting with the Italian Minister for Education, Universities and Research to discuss the position of foreign lecturers working at Italian universities. [74926]

Mr Willetts: It is not the normal practice of the Government to disclose details of their discussions with foreign Governments.

Iceland: Debts

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what advice his Department is providing to companies owed money by Icelandic financial institutions. [75375]

Mr Prisk: HM Treasury have taken the lead on this issue.

Affected businesses are creditors in the administrations of the failed Icelandic banks. Further information, including contact details for the administrators, are available on the HM Treasury website:

http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_stability_icelandic_banks.htm

Manufacturing Industries

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to encourage growth in manufacturing output; and if he will make a statement. [74523]

Mr Prisk: Working with industry, this Government are taking action aimed at increasing growth in manufacturing output in the UK by encouraging higher levels of innovation, exports, business investment and technical skills as well as cutting excessive red tape. The Plan for Growth announced as part of Budget 2011 included a package of measures to stimulate the growth of engineering and advanced manufacturing, including changes to capital allowances, the launch of a High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC) as well as nine new university-based research centres, funding for 10,000 additional higher apprenticeships, and action to promote the image of the sector.

We are now making good progress on implementing these actions. For example, on 11 October a £140 million investment in the country's first TIC—focused on high value manufacturing—was announced. Between 10 and 21 October the second phase of the automotive pilot of See Inside Manufacturing was also launched. Over 40 world-class automotive manufacturers opened their doors allowing teachers, careers advisors and young people to see first hand some of the UK's world-class automotive and motorsport facilities and research centres to raise awareness of the diverse range of careers available. On 14 October, we also announced the new supplier for the reformed Manufacturing Advisory Service which will go live from January 2012 and includes an additional £7 million to deliver supply chain activities over the next three years.

We will report on the progress of these and other Plan for Growth measures at the time of the autumn statement.

Manufacturing Industries: Finance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage investment in the manufacturing industry in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* the Black Country. [73157]

Mr Prisk: Working with business, this Government are taking action to strengthen and grow modern manufacturing in the UK by encouraging higher levels of innovation, exports, business investment and technical skills as well as cutting excessive red tape. The Plan for Growth announced as part of Budget 2011 included a package of measures to stimulate the growth of engineering and advanced manufacturing, including changes to capital allowances, the launch of a High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre as well as nine new university-based research centres, funding for 10,000 additional higher apprenticeships, and action to promote the image of the sector.

In addition to these national actions, there are six local enterprise partnerships covering the West Midlands (including one covering the four Black Country local authorities). These business public sector partnerships are focused on supporting their local businesses through a range of measures which will encourage investment in manufacturing. These include Enterprise Zones (eg i54), local enterprise areas, and business support measures.

Research Councils: Public Appointments

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department uses to make appointments to the governing councils of the research councils. [75883]

Mr Willetts: The parameters of council membership are set out in a Council's Royal Charter. For six of the seven research councils their Royal Charter states that the council must consist of a Chair, a Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, and between 19 and 18 other members. Half of these must be appointed on account of their relevant academic qualifications. The Science and Technology Facilities Council's Royal Charter states that it must consist of a Chair, Chief Executive and from six to 10 other members, of whom no more than a third should be employed members of the council.

The Royal Charters also state that the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills shall consult each research council Chair about the criteria for particular council member appointments when they arise.

Within these parameters, and taking in to account the advice of the Chair on the required balance of expertise and experience on the council, the selection criteria for new appointments is agreed between the council and the Department. The recruitment process is conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Vacancies are then advertised for candidates meeting the criteria.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what remuneration his Department gives to people serving on the governing councils of the research councils; what expenses may be claimed by such members; and whether such expenses include travel and hotel accommodation. [75884]

Mr Willetts: Eligible council members of the UK's seven research councils are currently entitled to receive an honorarium of £6,850 per annum. Council members who chair boards are entitled to receive a total honorarium of £9,110 per annum. Council chairs are entitled to receive a total honorarium of £16,430 per annum. No honorarium is paid to civil servants or employees of organisations whose funds are derived from votes of Parliament.

Reasonable expenses incurred in pursuit of council business can be claimed by council members. This includes travel and accommodation costs.

Students: Disability

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that disabled students have the opportunity to live in university accommodation that is accessible; and if he will make a statement. [75580]

Mr Willetts: University accommodation is provided at the discretion of higher education institutions themselves, and is not funded by Government. The majority of institutions provide student accommodation either directly or through relationships with housing providers. Higher education institutions have duties under the Equality Act 2010 to support disabled students in higher education when applying to higher education and when studying. The legal duties apply to both educational and non-educational services, facilities and benefits including residential accommodation, where it is provided.

The law establishes a framework of responsibility which higher education institutions must comply with and also promotes an anticipatory and proactive approach to supporting disabled students. Universities are required to make reasonable .adjustments for disabled students to ensure that they can fully participate in the education and enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services which are provided for students. Making reasonable adjustments applies to the provision of university accommodation (where that service is offered) and ensuring it is accessible. Universities are required to plan to meet the needs of disabled students, make the adjustments that may be required, and periodically review their policies and provision.

The Equality Challenge Unit (ECU), the independent sector body which supports higher education institutions on equality matters, has developed two guidance documents with the Association for Student Residential Accommodation (ASRA) and other relevant higher education organisations to assist universities in establishing inclusive campuses. These include good practice on student accommodation and disabled students and are available on the ECU'S website:

http://www.ecu.ac.uk/publications/student-accommodation-providers-handbook

and

http://www.ecu.ac.uk/publications/inclusive-campus

The Government are committed to fair access to higher education for all with the talent, ability and potential to succeed.

Technology Strategy Board

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regional representation there is on the Technology Strategy Board; and how often it meets outside Wiltshire. [75806]

Mr Willetts: Members of the governing board of the Technology Strategy Board are appointed only on the basis of their experience and knowledge of key technology areas and their ability to bring a personal perspective to the exploitation of science, technology and new ideas by business. Regional representation plays no role in their appointment, but the current board members are located from across the UK: London (three), Scotland (two), Winchester, Suffolk, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sunbury-on-Thames, Cardiff, Guildford, Stockport and Portsmouth.

The Technology Strategy Board has held 29 formal governing board meetings since it was established in July 2007 and of these 27 were held outside Wiltshire.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 21 October 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how much was spent by his Department on meeting home to work travel costs for the Chief Executive of the Serious Fraud Office in 2010-11; [74582]

(2) how much the Serious Fraud Office spent on meeting the travel to work costs of each of its employees in receipt of such costs in the latest period for which figures are available; [74585]

(3) how many staff in the Serious Fraud Office have the costs of travelling from home to work met by their employer. [74586]

The Solicitor-General: The travel costs for the chief executive for 2010-11 was £12,600. This was a benefit in kind payment. These payments arise from her home being out of London.

For the last financial year in which accounts were submitted on behalf of the SFO, the amount spent on meeting the travel to work costs for those staff with an approved entitlement for reimbursement was £57,880.50 (this includes the chief executive).

During the period for which the above figure is provided, nine staff are entitled to have the cost of travel from home to work met by the SFO.

Telephone Hacking: Metropolitan Police

Mr Meacher: To ask the Attorney-General whether he has made representations to the Metropolitan police concerning their decision to invoke the Official Secrets Act in respect of the Guardian's journalistic sources in the Milly Dowler telephone hacking case. [76286]

The Attorney-General: No.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the resource budget allocation was for the office of his Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [72442]

Mr Willetts: The chief scientific adviser's office was established in May 2008. The resource budget allocations for the following three years were:

	£
2008/09	200,000
2009/10	80,000
2010/11	176,500

The low figure for 2009/10 was caused by maternity leave for a Grade 7, a senior executive officer joining later in year with an existing budget provision, and an executive officer on loan from another Government Department. These were one-off factors that did not carry over into the following financial year. Forecasts for the same period were as follows:

	£
2008/09	173,000
2009/10	158,000
2010/11	192,000

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on requiring his Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72445]

Mr Willetts: The information is as follows:

(a) This Department is committed to handling science and engineering advice in accordance with the Government chief scientific adviser's guidelines on the use of science and engineering advice in policy making. In addition the Government Office for Science have issued guidelines on Scientific Analysis in Policy Making which sets out the way in which all Government Departments should obtain and use scientific analysis and advice in policy making.

(b) This Department does not require contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol for such services. The Department would seek to procure such services via a competitive process. As part of that process bidders' proposals, including their ability to provide, conduct and quality assure their work would be fully evaluated to ensure the successful bid is fit for purpose.

Higher Education: Admissions

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of young people in each local authority area began a course at *(a)* a university, *(b)* a Russell Group university and *(c)* Oxford or Cambridge University in the latest year for which figures are available. [73128]

Mr Willetts: The latest information on the numbers of young (aged under 21 on entry) undergraduate entrants from each local authority area in England who began a course at a UK higher education institution, a Russell Group university and Oxford or Cambridge university are shown in the table which will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012. Equivalent figures for entrants studying higher education courses in further education colleges are not available.

The Department does not collect data on the number of residents in a particular local authority area who are not in higher education, which would be necessary to calculate a proportion. It is, therefore, not possible to calculate the proportion of young people in each local authority area who began a higher education course.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of young people in each percentile of lower layer super output areas according to income deprivation affecting children indices began a course at *(a)* a university, *(b)* a Russell Group university and *(c)* Oxford or Cambridge University in the latest year for which figures are available. [73127]

Mr Willetts: The information requested is not held centrally.

The following publications on participation in higher education may be helpful.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) "Performance Indicators in Higher Education" include the proportion of entrants who are from state schools, lower socio-economic classes or low participation neighbourhoods.

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2072&Itemid=141

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) report "Trends in young participation in higher education: core results for England", January 2010 tracks proportions of young people from different backgrounds entering Higher Education:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_03/

The BIS publication "Widening Participation in Higher Education: Analysis of progression rates for young people in England by free school meal receipt and school type", August 2011, includes estimated information on young people by free school meal status progressing to higher education at national and local authority level:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/analysis/statistics/higher-education/official-statistics-releases/widening-participation-in-higher-education/analysis-of-progression-rates-for-young-people-in-england-by-free-school-meal-receipt

National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects have been carried out by the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research on behalf of the Government since May 2010. [74270]

Mr Willetts: The National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) does not undertake individual projects on behalf of the Government.

The NC3Rs is an independent organisation which works with the scientific community to discover and promote new ways to replace, reduce and refine the use of animals. The centre was recently tasked to lead in the delivery of the Government's pledge to work to reduce animal use in scientific research. The NC3Rs strategy and work plan is approved by its independent board.

I recently attended the launch of the NC3Rs CRACK IT initiative, the aim of which is to develop new technologies for industry with 3Rs benefits by connecting and funding scientists from academia and industry. More information can be found on the CRACK IT website:

www.crackit.org.uk

The event also publicised a review of the NC3Rs research portfolio "Research Review 2011" describing some of the science it has funded to find new ways of replacing and reducing the use of animals in scientific procedures and improving animal welfare. The report and a list of all projects funded by the NC3Rs can be accessed on their website:

http://www.nc3rs.org.uk

Awards granted in 2011 can be viewed at:

http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/news.asp?id=1558

Skills and Jobs Retention Group

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who the members are of the Skills and Jobs Retention Group; how many times it has met since it was established; what its budget is; and how many people it has assisted in finding new employment. [76163]

Mr Prisk: The Skills and Jobs Retention Group has met formally 10 times. In addition, there has been regular discussion between group members, other individuals, business and organisations to progress work.

The group itself has no budget although it worked closely with SEMTA to ensure that they secured £450,000 funding from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) Employer Investment Fund for the system design and implementation of the new national web-based exchange—the Talent Retention Solution (TRS).

This allowed the TRS to be launched in July. This is a solution designed by business for business. No assessment has yet been made of precisely how many people have been assisted by the TRS so far. However, good progress is being made with more than 150 companies registered on the website and, based on our discussions with them, we expect significant vacancies to come onto the system in the months ahead.

The membership of the group is as follows:

Member	
Chair: Allan Cook	Chairman of Atkins and SEMTA
Mark Barclay	Senior Vice President and Head of Centre of Excellence—Airbus
Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson	Chief Executive Officer Nuclear New Build—EDF Energy
Graham Chisnall	Managing Director Commercial Aerospace and Operations—ADS
James Fothergill	Head of Education and Skills—CBI
Frank Hayden	Group Manufacturing Director—Rolls-Royce
Colin Lawther	Vice President Europe Production Engineering—Nissan
Dick Martin	Chairman—Kembrey Wiring Systems Limited
John Whelan	Human Resources Director Programmes and Support—BAE Systems
Juergen Maier	Managing Director UK Industry Sector—Siemens
Susanna Mason	Director General Corporate Commercial—Ministry of Defence
Janice Munday	Director of Advanced Manufacturing and Services—Department for Business Innovation and Skills

Member	
Ian Waddell	National Officer Aerospace and Shipbuilding—Unite the Union

Students: Finance

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of students who interrupted their studies due to illness in each of the last five years, but returned to study in the following academic year. [73686]

Mr Willetts: Information on students interrupting their studies due to illness and returning the following academic year is not held centrally.

CABINET OFFICE

Childbirth

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children were born at *(a)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, *(b)* Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford and *(c)* Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough in each of the last five years. [76354]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many children were born at (a) Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, (b) Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford and (c) Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough in each of the last five years (76354).

Figures for live births by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

Live births occurring in selected hospitals, 2006 to 2010

Communal establishment	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich	3,953	4,206	4,036	4,000	4,176
Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford	2,881	3,209	3,147	3,529	3,828
Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough Common, Orpington	3,562	3,631	3,667	3,777	3,855

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Revenue Accounts

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumption on the proportion of council housing stock which will be sold in future years he plans to use to calculate the adjustment of housing revenue account debt settlements to reflect changes in future income following changes to discounts on right-to-buy sales. [75878]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* We will ensure that the changes to right-to-buy policy work alongside the devolved system of council housing finance. We will set out our proposals for doing this in due course.

Housing: Older People

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to enable older people living in rural areas to remain in their own homes as they grow older. [75661]

Andrew Stunell: Our programme for Government included a commitment to support older people to live independently at home. To support that commitment Government have protected funding for Disabled Facilities Grant which delivers adaptations that enable disabled people to live comfortably and independently in their homes. By the end of the spending review period the national Disabled Facilities Grant budget will increase from £169 million in 2010-11 to £185 million in 2014-15.

We are investing £1.5 million in the FirstStop information and advice service which aims to help older people make informed decisions about their housing, care and support options and to help them maintain independent living in later life. The Government have also provided £51 million funding for Handypersons schemes over the spending review period to deliver small home repairs and adaptations.

Housing: Prices

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average price of houses in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [75403]

Andrew Stunell: Information at constituency level could be provided only a disproportionate cost. The Ashfield constituency is made up of specific settlements from the districts of Ashfield and Broxtowe.

Estimates of the simple average house prices (based on Land Registry data), for 2011, quarter 2, are provided in the following table:

	£
Ashfield	124,817
Broxtowe	151,543
Nottinghamshire	155,594
England	231,803

House prices by local authority are published on the DCLG website in Statistics Live Table 581:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-581.xls

Local Government Finance: North Yorkshire

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the effect that reductions in central Government funding to local authorities will have on unemployment in the boroughs of *(a)* Middlesbrough and *(b)* Redcar and Cleveland. [75202]

Robert Neill: No estimate has been made of the effect that reductions in central Government funding to local authorities will have on unemployment in the boroughs of *(a)* Middlesbrough and *(b)* Redcar and Cleveland.

The coalition Government's deficit reduction plan is necessary to secure economic stability and put Britain's public services and welfare system on a sustainable long-term footing. Under the last Administration, the UK's economy became unbalanced, and relied on unsustainable public spending and rising levels of public debt.

For economic growth and job creation to be sustainable, we need a broad-based economy supporting private sector jobs, exports, investment and enterprise. In this context, it is my assessment that the savings we are making to central Government spending will reduce long-term unemployment.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bookmakers

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the protection afforded by offshore bookmakers to their customers in the UK. [76254]

John Penrose: In 2009, this Department reviewed remote gambling regulation in Britain, and found it was not working as well as had been intended. Following a public consultation on 14 July 2011, I announced to Parliament proposals for reforming our regulation. This will mean consistent protection for British consumers as all overseas operators will be subject to the same regulatory standards and requirements as British-based operators, for example in relation to problem gambling, preventing underage play and reporting suspicious betting patterns.

Creative Partnership Active

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what the name is of each Creative Partnership active in each region in 2011-12; [75782]

(2) how many Creative Partnership projects he expects to arise from Government funding of the Creativity, Culture and Education charity in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15; and how many pupils he expects to participate in such projects in each such year. [75962]

Mr Vaizey: The names of the current area delivery organisations can be found online at:

http://www.creative-partnerships.com/in-your-area/

Arts Council England will cease funding Creativity, Culture and Education, who deliver Creative Partnerships, at the end of this financial year and will instead support a new network of bridge organisations from 2012-13.

In 2011-12 Creativity, Culture and Education will report to Arts Council England on the number of schools involved in Creative Partnerships, but not how many individual projects or students.

Cultural Heritage

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what museums, galleries and places of heritage he has visited in each region in the last 12 months. [75784]

Mr Vaizey: Since October 2010, the Secretary of State has visited the following museums, galleries and places of heritage:

Date	*Venue*	*Region*
8 December 2010	Banqueting House	London
11 January 2011	British Museum	London
7 February 2011	Windsor Castle	South east
25 February 2011	Farnham Museum	South east
22 March 2011	Geffrye Museum	London
1 April 2011	Royal Armouries	London
16 May 2011	Heywood Gallery	London
19 May 2011	White Cube Gallery	London
31 May 2011	Lisson Gallery	London
15 June 2011	Tate Britain	London
24 June 2011	British Library	London
9 July 2011	Iron Bridge Museum	West Midlands
12 July 2011	National Maritime Museum	London
26 August 2011	Holburne Museum	South west
20 September 2011	Whitechapel Gallery	London
18 October 2011	Chatham Historic Dockyard	South east
19 October 2011	Buckingham Palace	London

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74954]

John Penrose: The total amount that members of this Department's management board, excluding Ministers, have claimed in relation to expenses incurred while carrying out their departmental duties since May 2010 up to the end of September 2011 is £2,822.16.

Creative Industries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Education to discuss accessibility for all age groups to the creative industries; and whether any action plan from such meetings was produced. [75744]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport have not had any meetings to discuss accessibility for all age groups to the creative industries. Discussions between our two Departments have primarily focused on the independent review of cultural education that we jointly commissioned Darren Henley to produce by the end of the year. It will consider how we ensure that every child has access to a wide variety of high quality cultural experiences.

Film

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department is giving to the 55th London Film Festival. [75835]

Mr Vaizey: The British Film Institute is contributing £1.7 million to the 55th London Film Festival running 12 to 27 October 2011. This is part of the grant in aid funding from the Department this year.

Government Art Collection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on the *(a)* framing and *(b)* hanging of art from the Government Art Collection since May 2010. [75352]

Mr Vaizey: Since May 2010 the Government Art Collection has spent £203,806 on framing and £13,136 on hanging works of art. Works of art are displayed in major British Government buildings, including Ministers' offices, embassies and ambassadors' residences, to promote British art and contribute to cultural diplomacy.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was withdrawn on each occasion one of his Department's officials used a Government Procurement Card at an automated teller machine from 2006-07 to 2009-10; and what the date of each such withdrawal was. [76085]

John Penrose: The following table details the amounts withdrawn by officials using a Government Procurement Card at automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10.

Date	*Amount (£)*
2007	
23 April	50.00
20 April	100.00
27 April	50.00
21 June	20.00
19 September	100.00
24 September	100.00
3 October	190.00
2008	
2 August	100.00
10 October	123.21
2009	
7 June	355.68

Horse Racing: Bookmakers

Mr Sutcliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likelihood that agreements between bookmakers and racecourses concerning on-course bookmaking arrangements from 1 September 2012 will be reached with every racecourse and racecourse group in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [76027]

John Penrose: My officials are in close and regular contact with the Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Ltd (FRB) and the Racecourse Association (RCA) over the discussions on racecourse pitch tenures. I receive regular updates on the discussions between the two groups and, while progress is slow, it is being made. We understand that the contracts for Northern Racing and Arena Leisure are either agreed or very close to agreement and that some of the independent courses have begun discussions. All parties are working towards all contracts being agreed by the end of this year and I will be keeping a close watch on progress.

Museums and Galleries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many museums he has visited in the last 12 months on official business. [75845]

Mr Vaizey: In the last 12 months, the Secretary of State has visited eight museums on official business.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was available from EU funds for museums in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [75846]

Mr Vaizey: This Department does not hold information about the level of EU funding allocated to its sponsored museums or to other museums in the UK. Any funding allocated by the EU is a matter for the individual museums and the EU funding agencies.

Ofcom: Press Complaints Commission

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether *(a)* Ofcom and *(b)* the Press Complaints Commission are defined as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [75856]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom is defined as a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, but the Press Complaints Commission is not.

Public Libraries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what plans he has to encourage local authorities to *(a)* improve library services and *(b)* offer (i) seven-day opening, (ii) outreach programmes and (iii) other library services; [75960]

(2) what plans he has for *(a)* continued provision of and *(b)* improvements to library services in the digital age. [75961]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England has responsibility for library development in the digital age. With the Local Government Group they will deliver a second libraries development programme to identify and support a number of authorities to implement the ideas and best practice that came from the Future Libraries programme.

Television: Violence

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions he has had on the effects of television violence on schoolchildren; and whether he has taken steps in respect of this issue; [75933]

(2) if he will estimate the number of *(a)* fictional murders and *(b)* fictional acts of violence a British child will view on television in the course of their childhood; and if he will assess the potential effect of such viewing on their psychological, emotional, educational and social development; and what recent representations he has received on this issue; [75936]

(3) if his Department will *(a)* develop and *(b)* implement guidelines on the maximum number of hours of television viewing recommended for children. [75943]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has had no recent discussions.

Parliament has charged the independent broadcasting regulator, Ofcom, with maintaining standards to protect children from harmful material. It sets out the rules and guidance with which broadcasters must comply. Ofcom's broadcasting code therefore contains specific requirements to protect people under 18, including strict rules on the portrayal of violence in television programmes.

Ofcom's rules are required to be robust and based on the best evidence and it regularly conducts research in this area. If there was new evidence which clearly showed existing levels of TV violence as a major problem in the UK then Ofcom would need to consider this fully and act accordingly.

Within this framework, it is the broadcasters' job to make judgments about what individual programmes should contain and the time at which they are broadcast.

The Government have no plans to introduce guidelines on the maximum number of hours of television viewing recommended for children.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice his Department's Permanent Secretary has provided to him on his links with Mr Adam Werritty. [75481]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* Since my arrival, the Department's permanent secretary has discussed the Ministerial Code with me. I do not have any links with Mr Adam Werritty.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has had discussions with the former Chief of the Defence Staff, Sir Jock Stirrup on Mr Adam Werritty since his appointment. [75500]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* I have had no discussions with Sir Jock Stirrup regarding Mr Adam Werritty since my appointment.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what vehicle is capable of firing the Exactor missile; [75244]

(2) whether his Department has acquired M133 armoured personnel carriers under urgent operational requirements for operations in Afghanistan. [75246]

Peter Luff: The UK has a range of systems deployed in Afghanistan to support coalition forces and protect civilians. However, I am withholding further details on individual capabilities as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date his Department estimates that all armed forces personnel, including cadets and reservists, will have been issued with the multi-terrain pattern uniform. [75967]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* On current plans, all armed forces personnel who require combat clothing, including reservists, are to be issued with the new multi-terrain pattern uniform by the end of 2013.

The issue to cadets of the multi-terrain pattern uniform is a decision for each of the services. Army cadets have been included within the last tranche of the Army roll-out programme and it is intended to issue Royal Marine cadets with the new uniforms as soon as is practicable after the naval core roll-out programme is complete. At this time there are no plans to issue the new uniform to Air cadets.

Defence Business Services National Security Vetting

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on Defence Vetting Agency: removal of agency status, what consultation his Department carried out prior to the decision to remove agency status from the Defence Vetting Agency. [75259]

Mr Robathan: Formal consultation with the trade unions on the creation of the Defence Business Services (DBS) organisation commenced in March 2011. This consultation referred to the intent to consider the inclusion of the Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) within the DBS; with the consequent removal of its agency status.

The Ministry of Defence Civil Service Unions (MCSU) were informed on 1 September 2011 of the proposal to move the DVA into the DBS organisation during the autumn of 2011.

The MCSU acknowledged in a letter dated 14 September 2011 that they were content to accept the proposal. Consultation with the local trade unions is being taken forward through the DBS non-industrial trade unions.

On 22 September 2011, I informed the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury the decision to remove agency status from the DVA, on its transfer into the DBS organisation.

Defence Equipment

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions in 2010-11 were consignments in response to requests for military kit despatched by special courier. [75761]

Peter Luff: An enabling arrangement is in place with City Spirit for the delivery of urgently required equipment such as aircraft components and medical stores anywhere in north-west Europe. In 2010-11, 13,995 deliveries were tasked under this arrangement. These predominantly related to ongoing operations.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73099]

Peter Luff: Ministry of Defence guidance mandates that all external consultancy requirements be articulated in the form of a business case, with financial approval provided at the appropriate level. This business case must consider all potential options, including internal resources, and make clear the rationale for recommending the external option to provide the service required.

The requirement is categorised by the top level budget holder into one of eleven categories so that the expenditure is appropriated correctly. The requirement is then procured by way of a competitive tendering exercise if practicable, either through an existing corporate framework agreement or on a bespoke basis by advertising for expressions of interest prior to an invitation to tender being issued, in the Defence Contracts Bulletin if above £10,000 in value, and in the Official Journal of the European Union if above £101,000 in value, under the restricted procedure. In the event of a competitive tendering exercise being impracticable, the requirement is advertised on a single tender procurement basis in advance of the contract being placed, in the Defence Contracts Bulletin, if above £40,000 in value, and in the Official Journal of the European Union if above £101,000 in value, by way of a voluntary transparency notice, under the negotiated procedure. Unless a corporate framework agreement has been used, contract awards are again advertised in these two publications as appropriate.

All invitation to tender and contract award documents above £10,000 in value are placed on the transparency website unless a framework agreement pre-dating January 2011 has been used.

It is worth noting also that since July 2010, the Cabinet Office has imposed a pan-Government freeze on external consultancy expenditure to the effect that all intended expenditure below £20,000 has to be approved at Director (1 star) level and above £20,000 with less than nine months duration approved at ministerial level. All consultancy requirements valued above £20,000 and within an intended duration longer than nine months have to be approved by the Efficiency Reform Group.

Prior to any engagement or contract being placed, Departments have to ensure that the requirement is necessary and that no internal resource is available to undertake the work. All external consultancy contracts are reviewed on this basis every three months with the maximum term permitted being nine months whereupon Efficiency Reform Group approval is required.

In addition, any proposal from an external consultant quoting average man day rates above a certain threshold requires approval from Efficiency Reform Group.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on museums and exhibitions *(a)* overall and *(b)* in each constituent part of the UK in each year since 2005. [74724]

Mr Robathan: Funding for museums, provided through grants in aid, are provided in the following table in each of the last five years for which figures are currently available. A grant in aid is typically used to fund part or all of the administration costs of the recipient body.

Since 2008 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not collected estimates of regional expenditure on equipment, non-equipment, or personnel costs as they do not directly support policy making or operations. However, all of the museums listed are based in England.

In addition, the MOD provides some £4 million each year to support to the regimental museums, across the UK.

£

Grant-in-Aid	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
RAF Museum	7,104,192	6,774,110	7,019,000	7,989,309	7,367,000	7,552,000
National Army Museum	4,871,546	5,292,879	5,489,000	5,734,850	5,515,222	6,312,403
National Museum of the Royal Navy	—	—	—	—	3,237,466	2,797,046
Fleet Air Arm Museum	579.063	593,724	614,000	631,000	[1]—	[1]—
Royal Marine Museum	783,252	740,788	765,480	783,000	[1]—	[1]—
Royal Navy Museum	1,025,044	895,502	873,000	1,045,000	[1]—	[1]—
Royal Navy Submarine Museum	548,317	561,997	575,708	591,000	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Funded through the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Health Services

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on provision of facilities for retired service personnel diagnosed with mental health disorders. [75089]

Mr Robathan: All members of the Government place great importance on mental health issues, and Defence Ministers have had several discussions on the subject with colleagues in the Health Departments and others across Government, as well as with the community and voluntary sector.

We are also working together on the implementation of my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison)'s "Fighting Fit" report on mental health services for both serving and ex-serving personnel.

On 12 October 2011 the Minister of State, Department of Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns), and I met Dr Clifford Stanley, the US Department of Defense Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, as part of the US/UK Service Personnel and Veterans Task Force, which aims to deliver the best possible support for serving members of the armed forces and veterans.

NATO

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what views were expressed by NATO defence ministers on the conclusions of the NATO defence capabilities review at their meeting on 5 and 6 October 2011; if he will place in the Library information on the conclusions of that review; and if he will make a statement. [74843]

Mr Gerald Howarth: At their meeting on 5 October 2011, NATO Defence Ministers endorsed the NATO Defence Planning Capability Report 2010-11 which acknowledged that NATO relies on a few nations, particularly the United States, for provision of costly and advanced capabilities. The report included recommendations to focus on addressing identified capability shortfalls and deficiencies; emphasise multinational procurement cooperation in the delivering of capabilities where appropriate and to work to improve NATO's standardisation process. These recommendations will feed into the current NATO Defence planning cycle.

The report is classified NATO Restricted, including the report's conclusions, and therefore it is not possible to place it in the Library of the House, nor in the public domain.

Nuclear Weapons: Testing

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the purpose was of the 1993 Memorandum of Agreement between the UK and Australia in relation to Maralinga; [75279]

(2) for what reasons his Department provided £20 million to the Australian Government in 1993 in respect of atomic tests in that country. [75563]

Mr Robathan: The purpose of the 1993 agreement between the UK and Australia was to agree a £20 million ex gratia payment to the Australians towards the cost of rehabilitating the test sites in Australia.

EDUCATION

Adoption Allowances

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of local authorities include a child's disability living allowance in the calculation of the means test for adoption allowance. [75762]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect the data requested.

Local authorities must assess the needs of adopted children and their families for adoption support services, including financial support. In determining the amount of financial support to be paid to an adoptive parent, the local authority must take account of any other grant, benefit, allowance or resource which is available to the adoptive parent in respect of his needs as a result of the adoption of the child.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74952]

Tim Loughton: Information on the department's board is available on the Transparency pages of the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/b0067381/senior-civil-servant-expenses-and-hospitality

Similar information for Ministers is also published on the same site:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a0065263/ministers-quarterly-returns

Consultants

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many unpaid advisers his Department retains; what their names are; and which *(a)* bodies, *(b)* committees and *(c)* strategy groups of his Department each (i) is a member of, (ii) advises and (iii) works alongside. [73375]

Tim Loughton: The information for the Department is set out as follows:

Name	*Activity*
Sarah Thane	Child Performance
Stephen Furner	UK Council for Child Internet Safety
Adele Eastman	Voluntary and Community Services prospectus grants
Tom Jackson	
John Nash	
David Norgrove (Chair)	Family Justice Review
Shireen Ritchie	
Sally Coates (Principal, Burlington Danes Academy, Hammersmith)	Review of Teachers' Standards
Roy Blatchford (Director of the National Education Trust)	
Joan Deslandes (Headteacher of Kingsford Community School, Newham, London)	

Name	*Activity*
Judith Fenn (Head of School Services at the Independent Schools Council)	
John McIntosh OBE (Former Headteacher of the London Oratory School)	
Dr Dan Moynihan (Chief Executive of Harris Academies)	
Professor Anthony O'Hear (Professor of Philosophy and former Head of Education Department, Buckingham University)	
Leanne Simmonds (Subject Leader of Modern Foreign Languages, Evelyn Grace Academy, London)	
Patricia Sowter CBE (Principal of Cuckoo Hall Academy, London)	
Ava Sturridge-Packer CBE (Headteacher of St Mary's C of E Primary School, Birmingham)	
Greg Wallace (Executive Principal of the Best Start Federation, Hackney)	
Brett Wigdortz (Chief Executive of Teach First)	
Lizzie Williams (Lead Teacher at King Solomon Academy, London)	
Patrick Leeson[1] (Director of Development, Education and Care, Ofsted)	
Diane Rochford (Head Teacher, John F Kennedy Special School)	
Shahed Ahmed (Head of Elmhurst Primary School, Forest Gate)	National Curriculum Review Advisory Committee members
Peter Barnes (Head of Oakgrove School, Milton Keynes)	
Dame Yasmin Bevan (Executive Principal and Head of Denbigh High School and Challney High School for Boys, Luton)	
Mike Harris (Head of Education and Skills Policy at the Institute of Directors)	
Patrick Leeson[1] (Director of Development, Education and Care, Ofsted)	
John D F Martin (Head of Castle Hill Junior School, Basingstoke)	
Bernice McCabe (Head of North London Collegiate)	
John McIntosh OBE (Retired Head of The London Oratory School)	
Ruth Miskin (Founder, Read Write Inc and former Primary Head)	
Joe Prendergast (Head of Wennington Hall School, Lancaster) Heather Rockhold (Retired Head of Lauriston Primary School, Hackney)	
Professor Nigel Thrift (Vice-Chancellor, University of Warwick)	
Sir Michael Wilshaw (Head of Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney and Director of Education at ARK)	
Darren Henley (Managing Director of Classic FM)[2]	Cultural Review

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[1] In recognition of Ofsted's status, Mr Leeson is included as an observer for this review and committee.

[2] This is joint review led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed for relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the United Kingdom. [74903]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not relocated any civil servants in the last 12 months.

Departmental Manpower

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* special advisers, *(b)* speechwriters and *(c)* press officers are in paid employment at his Department; what their names are; and how much his Department has spent on (i) special advisers, (ii) speechwriters and (iii) press officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [72314]

Tim Loughton: There are two special advisers, three speechwriters and 15 press officers currently employed by the Department for Education. It is not the Department's policy to name individual civil servants, however, the names of the special advisers are on record as Dominic Cummings and Henry de Zoete.

In the financial year 2010/11 the Department spent £771,039 on employing press officers and £219,534 on employing speechwriters. Details of pay bands for special advisers were published in a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 110-13WS, and can be viewed at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Since publication Dominic Cummings is now in pay band 2 with a salary of £69,266 per annum.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74904]

Tim Loughton: In the Department, the 1,336 London-based staff employed at grade 6 level and below are paid on average £3,700 more per head than staff employed elsewhere. The 114 senior civil servants employed in the Department do not receive any London weighting or allowances.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73195]

Tim Loughton: The costs for employing civil servants in the Commercial Group for the Department for Education to undertake procurement in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and the estimated costs for 2011-12 are shown in the following table.

To date we have had no contracts and no spend with consultants working specifically on procurement in the Department. We do not anticipate any spend in this financial year.

Costs for employing civil servants to undertake procurement

	£ million
2008-09	13.3
2009-10	15.3
2010-11	10.4
2011-12[1]	2.4

[1] Estimated

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75012]

Tim Loughton: There were 15,086 days of absence and an average of 6.0 working days lost (AWDL) in the 12-month reporting period, ending 31 March 2011. Sickness absence data for the Department for Education is available on its website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a00448/sickness-absence

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74340]

Tim Loughton: Information about how many external training courses were attended by the Department's staff and the associated cost is not held centrally. Funding for the majority of learning and development opportunities is held and managed by individual business areas. Consequently this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Free Schools: Academies

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance he plans to provide to local authorities to ensure they do not restrict the formation of free schools and academies. [69451]

Mr Gibb: In discharging his duty under the Academies Act 2010, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), will decide whether to establish a free school or an academy. As part of that decision making process, local authorities have a key strategic role to play as a champion for children and families. We have already seen good examples of local authorities supporting parents and communities who want to set up free schools and who promote academies in order to improve standards.

As part of the local authorities' role in supporting the establishment of new schools, the Education Bill currently before Parliament proposes that where a local authority considers there is a need for a new school; it must first seek proposals to establish an academy or free school. The current guidance issued to local authorities, schools and decision makers is extant and when, subject to parliamentary approval, the Bill is enacted we will review and revise the guidance as appropriate.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), has recently set out how local authority planning departments should deal with proposals for state-funded schools, including free schools. In particular that they should make full use of their planning powers to support free school applications.

Schools: Dogs

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on headteachers and teachers bringing dogs into school premises. [75035]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has no central policy on head teachers and teachers bringing dogs into school premises. In any circumstances where dogs are brought into the premises, we would expect schools to take common sense steps to ensure that the health and safety of those in the school is adequately protected. For instance ensuring that dogs are controlled and any fouling is cleared by the owners or handlers.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of instances in which non-compliance by local authorities with the duty to provide careers guidance has not resulted in legal action. [73927]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 October 2011]*: Local authorities do not have a statutory duty to provide careers guidance. They have a duty, under section 68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, to make available services which encourage, enable or assist effective participation of young people in education or training. Local authorities may choose to fulfil this duty through the provision of careers guidance services.

The Department for Education does not hold information on whether or not non-compliance with this duty has resulted in legal action. Any legal action would be brought against local authorities. No estimate can be given, therefore, of the number of instances in which non-compliance has or has not resulted in legal action.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Young People's Learning Agency has made of the (i) enrolment and (ii) retention of 16-year-olds in full-time education in the 2011-12 academic year. [74695]

Tim Loughton: Information on 16-year-olds in full-time education for the 2011/12 academic year is not yet available.

Special Educational Needs

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to include the number of children with need status in the core data set of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. [75333]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

Health and wellbeing boards will be a forum for the national health service, local authorities and communities to exercise shared leadership in arriving at a joint understanding of local needs, including the needs of local children, and a shared strategy to address those needs. The director of children's services will be a statutory member of the health and wellbeing board—as part of effective joint working, we would expect directors of children services to share data such as the number of children with children in need status, and other relevant information with the board, to ensure that the needs of local children are fully taken into account

Statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education, "Working together to safeguard children", states that Joint Strategic Needs Assessments should include the needs of children with children in need status, which will in turn inform the joint health and wellbeing strategy which drives local commissioning.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment core dataset brings together a list of indicators which health and wellbeing boards may wish to draw on when performing assessments. The Government are developing statutory guidance and wider resources to support boards in performing Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and developing joint health and wellbeing strategies. As part of this work, we will explore with health and wellbeing board early implementers and other partners what further resources they would find supportive, such as a refreshed core data set.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will implement the recommendation of the report by Professor Munro to introduce a duty on local authorities to provide an early offer of help to families. [75335]

Tim Loughton: Early help in the child protection system is a top priority for the Government. The Government response to Professor Munro's review of child protection endorsed her conclusions that the early identification of neglect and abuse and the offering of help to address needs early are in the best interests of the child and young person.

The earlier help is given, the more likely it is to have a positive impact on outcomes for children, and young people. The system at present is too reactive and we need to shift the balance towards identifying need and providing help early. Professionals working in universal services—health, education, police and early years—have a vital role in identifying the early signs of abuse and neglect and working together to make an early help offer to children, young people and families.

In the Government response we agreed to consider whether placing a statutory duty on local authorities and their partners was the most appropriate route to secure an increase in the range and number of preventative services on offer to children and families. Discussions are under way with local government and the wider sector, including health professionals, and are taking account of health reforms, to consider the best route to creating local systems where there is shared accountability and effective co-ordination of early help services. An announcement will be made in due course.

Teachers: Pensions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requests for information on teacher pensions from teaching unions his Department has *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected since May 2010. [75486]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* Wherever possible the Department aims to meet all reasonable requests for information from teacher unions and other stakeholders. Since May 2010, no requests from the teaching unions for data have been rejected and there are no outstanding data requests that have not been actioned. For example, within the last few weeks the Department has provided extensive data and information to the teacher unions to support ongoing discussions about possible changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, in the context of Lord Hutton's report on the reform of public service pension schemes.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library copies of all statistical information his Department holds on the future funding of teacher pensions. [75487]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* The following documents are currently held in the House Libraries and contain information relevant to the funding of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) Resource Accounts are published annually, with those for 2010-11 being published on 4 July 2011. The accounts contain current membership data relating to the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

The Government Actuary conducts a formal actuarial review of the Teachers' Pension Scheme every four years and his report contains assumptions on future membership and liabilities. The last valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme relates to the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2004 and was published in November 2006. The valuation covering the period up to March 2008 has been deferred pending the outcome of the current negotiations on scheme reforms.

The Office for Budget Responsibility set out its forecasts for expenditure and receipts to public sector pension schemes for the period up to 2015-16 in its Economic and Fiscal Outlook document. This was presented to

Parliament by the then Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), in March 2011.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from teaching unions on proposed changes to teacher pensions. [75488]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October]:* The Government have agreed that the recommendations from the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission (IPSPC), chaired by Lord Hutton of Furness, will form the basis for consultation on public sector pension reforms. The proposals are under discussion with teaching unions and employers. The Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and I meet regularly with the General Secretaries of all of the teaching unions at which pension reform is a regular item on the agenda.

Teachers: Vetting

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of teachers who have not been convicted of any offence but are unable to work as a result of unsubstantiated allegations disclosed in enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. [74520]

Tim Loughton: Numbers on checks for teaching are not collected, but we are making it easier to remove irrelevant information from disclosures. Individuals will be able to correct mistakes before showing a disclosure to an employer. Checks will only show non-conviction information that police believe is relevant to a job, and ought to be disclosed, not what might be relevant as is currently the case. Individuals, who can already seek to remove disputed information, will be able to appeal, if the police refuse.

For posts such as teaching, with these new protections, employers should judge such information alongside comments by the applicant, employment references, and specific duties of a post.

Third Sector

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since May 2010. [67547]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* As at 10 October, the charities and voluntary organisations visited by Ministers from the Department for Education are listed in the following table.

	Name of Charity and voluntary organisation visited
Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove MP)	Harrow Coram
	Prince's Teaching Institute's summer school
Minister of State for Schools (Nick Gibb MP)	Prince's Teaching Institute's summer school
Minister of State for Children and Families (Sarah Teather MP)	Bang Edutainment
	St Luke's Centre
	Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO)
Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Children and Families (Tim Loughton MP)	The Fostering Network
	The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)
	Parents' Intervention Takes a Stand
	Young Disciples
	Kids' Company
	The Soul Project
	Activenture (London Youth),
	Harrow Coram
	Voice (Alliance for Child Centred Care)
	The Station
	Lives Not Knives
	Catch 22, 16plus Service
	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
	St Georges's Community Hub
	BAAF
	NCVYS
	The Zone, Nelson
	Safe Space
	Magic Breakfast, Leeds
Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (John Hayes MP)	City and Guilds
	Edge Foundation
	German British Forum
	Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust
	Cadet Vocational Qualification Association
Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford)	Kennington Fairbridge

Youth Services

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of variations in the extent to which local authorities have made reductions in services for young people; and if he will take steps in respect of local authorities that have significantly reduced their youth service provision. [75350]

Tim Loughton: According to the figures provided by local authorities the average planned reduction in gross spend on services for young people for 2011-12 is 25%, compared with plans for 2010-11. Figures for individual local authorities should be treated with caution because there is some evidence that local authorities have interpreted and used categories of planned expenditure in different ways. For example, 28 authorities did not include any expenditure plans for youth work and discrepancies are apparent for other youth areas such as substance misuse.

The Government believe that the assessment of local priorities and decisions on levels of spend on services for young people are best left to local people. The Department has no current plans to intervene in respect of any local authority's services for young people. Nevertheless the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has a broad power to issue directions to local authorities if they are failing to perform any of their functions to an adequate standard under Section 497A of the Education Act 1996 (as applied to children's social care by the Children Act 2004). The Department will act to secure improvement where there is evidence of significant, long-standing failure, or where there is evidence that a local authority has been unable to do so.

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what role he expects local authorities to play in the delivery of youth work and a youth service. [75429]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* This Government expect local authorities to act as strategic commissioners of services to young people. They should commission effective services which promote the personal and social development of young people who most need additional support, including services based on youth work approaches. Local authorities may provide an in-house youth service themselves, but are not obliged to do so.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Prices

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to support households to meet their energy bills. [75577]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) chaired a consumer summit on 17 October to launch the 'check, switch, insulate to save' campaign and a package of measures to help consumers this winter. We are working with consumer groups, energy suppliers and the regulator Ofgem to ensure consumers can save money on their energy bills by checking on their energy deal, switching their supplier if appropriate and insulating their homes. This includes an agreement that suppliers will put a prompt on energy bills informing customers how to get the lowest tariff and will write to about 8 million customers to tell them what they could save by switching to direct debit. The extended carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) includes a number of changes that will encourage energy suppliers to provide insulation to off-the-gas-grid homes.

Officials have also been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions developing the data matching elements of the Warm Home Discount scheme to ensure that up to 600,000 of the poorest pensioners in Great Britain receive an automatic rebate of £120 on their electricity bills this winter.

Energy: Tariffs

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy suppliers on the provision to consumers of information on how to access the cheapest tariff. [75651]

Charles Hendry: Ministers within the Department meet regularly with energy suppliers to discuss a range of market issues, most recently at the Consumer Energy summit held on 17 October.

We have negotiated a voluntary agreement with suppliers to provide consumers with a prompt on bills to cheaper deals this winter, and an additional communication to their customers who pay by cash or cheque to let them know how much they could save by moving to the cheapest direct debit tariff. There is also a commitment from suppliers to assess the impact of the prompt on bills and improve it in the light of this evidence.

Fuels

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* petrol and *(b)* diesel fuel has been released from Government supplies in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [75503]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 19 October 2011]:* The Government do not own emergency stocks of petroleum products, such as petrol or diesel fuel, that could be released in an oil supply disruption. However, as a member state of the EU and the International Energy Agency (IEA), the UK meets its international obligations to hold oil stocks by directing companies under the Energy Act 1976 to hold minimum levels of oil stocks as part of their commercial stocks. IEA member countries made available oil stocks in June 2011 in response to short-term supply disruptions as a result of violence in Libya and Yemen; the UK made available some 3 million barrels.

Nuclear Installations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with *(a)* HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations and *(b)* UK nuclear plant operators on the merits of pre-staging remote-controlled equipment within nuclear plants in circumstances where radiation levels prevent human access. [75029]

Charles Hendry: None. This is a matter for site operators in liaison with the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Renewable Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to support community-owned renewable energy schemes. [73951]

Gregory Barker: As a coalition, we pledged to encourage community ownership of renewable energy schemes. In pursuit of this objective my Department has:

Developed Community Energy Online, a web portal to provide communities with a single point of contact to help communities benefit from the financial incentives in place for all who own renewable energy schemes;

Held a summit on community energy in July in Birmingham attended by over 70 people. This summit identified a number of barriers which my Department is now seeking to address together with other Government Departments or through communities and local authorities; and

Taken forward the Plan LoCaL project, a tool to support local communities developing renewable energy schemes working through the planning process. Plan LoCaL has held five dissemination events around the country to local authority staff and community representatives.

Work to address other barriers continues and closely involves the key stakeholders.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Afghan Government concerning the representation of women in reconciliation talks on that country's future. [75813]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 893W.

Afghanistan: Human Rights

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will press for any political agreement on the future of Afghanistan to include verifiable benchmarks for all parties' conformity with their human rights obligations under international human rights law and domestic law. [75829]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 610W.

Algeria: Christianity

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Algerian Government on the forced closure of Christian churches in that country; and if he will make a statement. [76062]

Alistair Burt: The Government raise the issue of human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, with the Government of Algeria through a variety of mechanisms, including the EU-Algeria Association Agreement, which came into force in September 2005.

We continue to monitor religious freedom in the middle east and north African region closely and will raise this issue as part of our discussions with the Algerian Government. I myself will be meeting a delegation of Christians later this month.

Advertising

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75631]

Mr Bellingham: Since May last year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent £159,739.58 on advertising job vacancies. This figure covers recruitment for UK-based members of staff only. It excludes recruitment undertaken by overseas posts advertising for local staff positions as the figures for this are not held centrally.

All of the positions advertised during this period were approved for external recruitment as either business critical or a front-line service, in accordance with the terms of the Government-wide recruitment freeze.

Egypt: Christianity

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the treatment of Christians in Egypt with the Egyptian Government as a matter of urgency. [75385]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), called the Egyptian Foreign Minister on 12 October to discuss the situation in Egypt, including his concerns about the unrest in Cairo that took place on 9 October. They discussed the action that the Egyptian Government were taking to address the violence.

The Secretary of State also issued a statement, on 10 October 2011, expressing his deep concern over this unrest and the loss of life in Cairo. He urged all Egyptians to refrain from violence, support the Egyptian Prime Minister's call for calm and for all sides to engage in dialogue. He said that the freedom of religious belief needs to be protected and that the ability to worship in peace is a vital component of a democratic society.

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the treatment of Christians in Egypt with the Egyptian government as a matter of urgency. [75538]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), called the Egyptian Foreign Minister on 12 October 2011 to discuss the situation in Egypt, including his concerns about the unrest in Cairo that took place on 9 October. They discussed the action that the Egyptian Government were taking to address the violence.

The Secretary of State also issued a statement, on 10 October, expressing his deep concern over this unrest and the loss of life in Cairo. He urged all Egyptians to refrain from violence, support the Egyptian Prime Minister's call for calm and for all sides to engage in dialogue. He said that the freedom of religious belief needs to be protected and that the ability to worship in peace is a vital component of a democratic society.

India: Commonwealth Games

Mr Sutcliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Indian counterpart on the delay in payments to British companies for work undertaken in relation to the 2010 Commonwealth Games. [76026]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are in close contact with the British companies who are yet to receive payment for services provided during the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. We have raised our concerns with the Indian Government at ministerial and official levels. I raised the issue with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Preneet Kaur, during my visit to India in June 2011.

India: Prisoners

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any staff of the British Embassy in India have visited Professor Devinderpal Singh Bhullar in prison. [76165]

Mr Bellingham: Staff in our High Commission in India have not visited Mr Bhullar in prison.

Iraq: Trade Unions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the position of trade unions in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [75722]

Alistair Burt: The UK continues to promote the importance of an active civil society in Iraq, of which trade unions play an important part. New draft labour laws are currently under review in Iraq, including those on freedom of association and collective bargaining. British embassy officials in Baghdad have in the past urged the Government of Iraq to recognise the important role played by trade unions. We will continue to do this where appropriate.

Middle East: Pipelines

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals *(a)* were working on the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline immediately before the recent bombings and *(b)* now work on the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline. [75792]

Alistair Burt: We have not been made aware of any British nationals who have either worked on the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline before the recent bombings, or currently.

Uganda

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* incidence of child sacrifice and *(b)* level of corruption in Uganda; and what representations his Department has made to the Government of Uganda on such matters. [75797]

Mr Bellingham: I am appalled by the ongoing practice of child sacrifice, and other forms of ritual murder in Uganda and around the world, as highlighted by the Jubilee Campaign.

According to official figures from the Ugandan Government, there were 14 cases of ritual murder last year, including nine children. In response. 43 suspects were arrested, of which 32 were charged with murder, attempted murder or other offences. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development (DFID) continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Government of Uganda's measures to combat this appalling practice. This includes, as well as the normal criminal investigation and prosecution processes, the establishment of a ministerial task force, the setting up of child and family protection units in the police force, and by the end of this year the establishment of a national plan of action on child sacrifice.

Furthermore, the DFID office in Uganda has supported child protection work in Uganda through UN Children's Fund, who focus on child sacrifice as part of their broader work. We are also engaged with local non-government organisation who are working to raise awareness of this problem and who are campaigning for tighter regulation of so-called "traditional healers" in the country.

We remain concerned about corruption and regularly engage the Government of Uganda on this issue. In September, the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), wrote to the Finance Minister making clear that our continued support to Uganda will depend on a shared commitment to the underlying partnership principles of our development relationship. These include promoting good governance and transparency, fighting corruption; and respecting human rights and other international obligations.

We have expressed particular concern regarding the unaccounted funds identified in reports by Uganda's auditor general into expenditure on hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 2007. Action taken by us thus far included cuts to UK budget support in 2009 and 2010. DFID have also provided technical assistance to the Director of Public Prosecutions and Inspector General of Government to support them in enhancing their investigative and prosecution capacity. This month, three serving Cabinet ministers have stepped down pending court proceedings over corruption charges linked to Uganda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2007. They join the former vice president who is also facing charges. We are also aware of recent corruption allegations raised by Ugandan parliamentarians around oil contracts and will continue to monitor these developments closely.

Ukraine: Stray Dogs

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Ukraine on the treatment and disposal of stray dogs in that country; and if he will make a statement. [76070]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has had no recent discussions with the Government of Ukraine on the treatment and disposal of stray dogs in Ukraine. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials will make their Ukrainian counterparts aware of some public concern in the UK about the way in which stray dogs are being removed from the streets.

HEALTH

Blood: Donors

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will require the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs to conclude the review of its recommendations on the use of fresh frozen plasma using evidence from Imperial College; [76250]

(2) if he will publish the impact assessment on the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs' recommendations of July 2009 on replacing UK-derived fresh frozen plasma with imported plasma for all recipients; [76251]

(3) when he will decide on implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs of July 2009 that the use of UK-derived fresh frozen plasma (FFP) should be ceased and replaced by imported FFP for all recipients. [76252]

Anne Milton: In early 2012, the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) plans to consider new information and analysis which has become available since it formulated its initial recommendations on fresh frozen plasma in 2009. The evidence to be considered by SaBTO includes that from the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens which takes account of evidence from Imperial College and other research groups. In the light of that evidence, SaBTO will consider whether the conclusions they reached in 2009 should be reviewed, and whether they wish to make recommendations on this matter to United Kingdom Health Ministers. Dependent on SaBTO's conclusions an impact assessment may be completed for Ministers' consideration and published in due course.

Blood: Testing

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will sponsor research to develop an analytical technique for testing for the presence of Bt proteins in blood to verify whether they can pass from the digestive tract of people and animals into the blood supply. [75824]

Anne Milton: Bt proteins are active components of some pesticide products and are also found in a number of insect-resistant genetically-modified crops. In both cases the safety of residual Bt proteins in food is evaluated as part of the relevant authorisation systems. Bt proteins are of low toxicity to mammals and the safety assessment is not based on assumptions about whether or not they are absorbed into the blood supply. Nevertheless, the available data from in *vitro* tests show that Bt proteins are rapidly broken down by digestive enzymes in the same way as most other proteins in the diet. There are no current plans to sponsor such research.

Cats: Litter

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will carry out an assessment of the potential risks of cat fouling to public health. [76057]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency and Public Health Wales are proposing to assess the potential public health impact of *Toxoplasma gondii* in cat faeces. Causes of cases of toxoplasmosis that are identified through the enhanced national surveillance scheme (set up in 2008) will be investigated through a case control study for a year. Results of the study will be published in due course.

The public health impact of other potential risks from cat fouling is assessed by the Health Protection Agency as being very low. Human toxocariosis, caused by *Toxocara* roundworms in cats and dogs, is rare with only a few cases reported each year in the United Kingdom (12 in 2010).

Care Leavers

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department provides for care leavers after they turn 18 years. [74736]

Tim Loughton: I have asked to reply.

Local authorities have clearly defined duties and responsibilities for their care leavers. The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 and guidance "Planning Transition for Adulthood for Care Leavers" requires local authorities to provide young people who turn 18 with appropriate leaving care support. This includes a regularly reviewed pathway plan and the allocation of a personal adviser who will provide advice and support on a range of matters including accommodation up until the young person reaches the age of 21, or beyond if the young person is still in education.

The revised regulations and guidance on support for care leavers are intended to bolster the quality of support, and bring consistency so that all young people receive the same opportunities to succeed as their peers.

Key entitlements for care leavers include:

the £2000 Higher Education Bursary for all eligible care leavers;

a new 16-19 Bursary scheme which will begin from the start of the 2011/12 academic year. Looked after young people and care leavers are guaranteed a £1,200 bursary if they continue in full-time education;

the provision of a personal adviser. Since April 2011 care leavers up to age 25 who return to education or training have been able to also benefit from the support of a personal adviser while they are on their agreed course; and

provision of vacation accommodation if the young person is in higher education.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75521]

Anne Milton: The Department's travel and expenses policy complies with the principles set out in the Civil Service Management Code and is in line with the recent Treasury-led review of departmental expenses policies and last year's Government efficiency announcements.

The Department is committed to reducing our first class travel and we have already made good progress in achieving this. There has been a significant fall in first class travel from May 2010 against costs for 2009-10 as follows:

£

	April 2009 to March 2010	*May 2010 to April 2011*	*May 2011 to September 2011*
Air	0	0	0
Boat	0	0	0
Rail	3,840,226.58	923,631.96	55,400.45

First class air travel is not allowed and all flights are expected to be economy class unless there is a business need to travel business class. All rail travel must be standard class unless there is a clear business need to travel first class.

Health Services: Bradford

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with Bradford and Airedale Primary Care Trust the staffing reductions that Trust is making in health improvement services. [76184]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has no current plans to meet with Bradford and Airedale Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) to discuss health improvement staffing levels. National health service organisations, including Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT, are independent employers in their own rights and responsible for decisions on staffing numbers.

Health: Finance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism will be used to determine the overall budget for the new public health system in England; and what proportion of that budget will be allocated to local authorities to fulfil their new public health responsibilities. [76257]

Anne Milton: The first step in determining the overall budget for the new public health system in England has been the collection of recent expenditure on public health services which will become the responsibility of the new public health system. Further analysis will build on this to take account of pressures from recently introduced polices and the overall resources available to the Department.

It is not possible to say, until this analysis has been completed, what proportion of the total public health budget will be allocated to local authorities.

Shadow allocations to local authorities for 2012-13 will be published later this year.

HIV Infection: Christianity

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking in response to the findings of a BBC investigation which found that at least three people died after they stopped taking medication on the advice of their Evangelical Christian pastors. [76162]

Anne Milton: The Department is very concerned if people are not taking their HIV medication without the advice of their doctor. The Department recognises that faith organisations can make a positive contribution to raising awareness of HIV and tackling stigma. HIV treatment is highly effective but it requires patients to take their HIV medication as prescribed by their national health service specialist doctor.

The Department funds the African HIV Policy Network for a programme of HIV prevention, which includes a continuing programme of work with Christian and Muslim faith leaders.

Hospitals: Food

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what minimum nutritional level of food served to patients in NHS hospitals his Department has set; [76187]

(2) what assessment he has made of the nutritional content of food served *(a)* in hospitals, *(b)* in residential care homes and *(c)* through meals on wheels services. [76188]

Anne Milton: The Department does not assess the nutritional content of meals provided by the national health service, social care or meals on wheels. However, the registration system established under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 requires all providers of health and adult social care regulated activities to meet essential levels of safety and quality, and nutrition is a part of this.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for the inspection and regulation of services. If CQC finds services are not meeting regulatory requirements, we expect it to use its powers of enforcement to ensure compliance.

Good food is an essential part of hospital and social care, and health and adult social care providers are required by law to meet the nutritional needs of patients and service users. Provider organisations are responsible for compiling their own menus and making decisions about the food served to patients and service users. This includes planning and monitoring the nutritional content of menus.

A range of information sources are available to help hospitals (and other providers) devise healthy, nutritious, tasty menus, as follows:

'Healthier and more sustainable catering: toolkit and supporting nutrition principles' is available on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_125579

The Operating Framework for 2011-12 requires the NHS to consider the Government Buying Standards for Food (published June 2011).

Best practice guidance on the delivery of food in the NHS was produced by the Department and is now available at the Hospital Caterers Association website at:

www.hospitalcaterers.org/better-hospital-food/

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average budget was allocated for providing food for each patient in a hospital in each year from 2001. [76249]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected in the precise format requested. However, information is provided to the Department by the national health service giving average cost of feeding one patient per day as follows:

	Average cost of providing food for one patient per day (£)
2004-05	5.32
2005-06	6.19
2006-07	6.69
2007-08	6.97
2008-09	7.95
2009-10	8.06

These data were not collected before 2004-05. These costs relate to the average daily cost for the provision of all meals and beverages fed to one patient per day, across all NHS trusts in England. The cost should include all pay and non-pay costs, including provisions, ward issues, disposables, equipment and its maintenance.

The figure provided has been supplied by the NHS and has been collected through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) system. This is the annual return made by all trusts in England to the Department and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation. All ERIC data are publicly available and are published at:

www.hefs.ic.nhs.uk

Malnutrition: Costs

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of disease-related malnutrition in each year since 2001; [76185]

(2) what information his Department has provided to NHS patients on good nutrition; and if he will make a statement. [76186]

Anne Milton: The Department has not made any estimate of the cost to the national health service of disease-related malnutrition, as this information is not held centrally.

The Department does not provide advice on nutrition specifically to NHS patients. However, the Department provides an extensive range of information on nutrition through a range of approaches including NHS Choices and Change4Life.

Nurses

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future role of clinical nurse specialists in the NHS. [76168]

Anne Milton: The Government recognise the important contribution made by clinical nurse specialists and the value that patients place on having their specialist expertise and support. Under our proposals for reform, providers of national health service funded care will continue to be responsible for the skill mix of their workforce and for ensuring that staff, including specialist nurses, are trained and competent in their roles. Commissioners will have the freedom to commission pathways of care designed around the patient and delivered by a multi-professional workforce which includes clinical nurse specialists.

Obesity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on measures to address obesity in *(a)* adults and *(b)* children. [75948]

Anne Milton: Ministers have not had recent discussions with Ministers from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on tackling obesity. However, the Minister of State, Department of Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns), and I met with the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, my hon. Friend the Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson), at DCMS in March to discuss the Public Health Responsibility Deal which includes action to raise levels of physical activity. Fred Turok, (co-chair of the Responsibility Deal Physical Activity Network) and Jennie Price (chief executive of Sport England) were also present at this meeting.

A Minister from DCMS also attends the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Public Health.

Pancreatic Cancer: Health Services

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for an audit of pancreatic cancer services. [76166]

Paul Burstow: There are currently no plans for an audit of pancreatic cancer services as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP).

The Government are committed to extending the number of national clinical audits across a much wider range of conditions and treatments, and to developing their role as a driver of quality improvement. Following a call for new topics for national clinical audit earlier this year, the National Clinical Audit Advisory Group has provided advice to the Department on new topics to be included as part of NCAPOP. The new topics will be announced shortly.

Pancreatic Cancer: Research

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future spending on pancreatic cancer research. [76167]

Paul Burstow: The Department is fully committed to clinical and applied research into treatment and cures for cancer. The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) welcomes high quality funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including pancreatic cancer. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity.

The United Kingdom has the highest national per capita rate of cancer trial participation in the world. The NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) is currently hosting 18 trials and other well-designed studies in pancreatic cancer that are in set-up or recruiting patients. Details can be found on the UK CRN portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

In August 2011, the Government announced £800 million investment over five years in a series of NIHR biomedical research centres and units, including £61.5 million funding for the Royal Marsden/Institute of Cancer Research Biomedical Research Centre.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Heating

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what guidance the House of Commons Commission provides in respect of the provision of heating for the offices of hon. Members during periods of moderate weather. [75656]

John Thurso: The Commission has set environmental targets which include a reduction in carbon emissions resulting from energy use. The heating for the offices of hon. Members is controlled locally and centrally (main central heating plant) to maintain reasonable temperatures. If the weather is likely to be warmer, the heating is turned off. This is usually from May to September but may be varied for exceptional weather. The heating may also occasionally be switched off for essential (often statutorily required) maintenance and repairs.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent in Afghanistan in 2010-11; and what proportion of such spending was for road projects. [75209]

Mr O'Brien: In 2010-11, the Department for International Development spent £104 million in Afghanistan. Of this, £3.7 million was specifically allocated to road projects.

Advertising

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75628]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £135,521.50 on advertising job vacancies between 1 April 2010 and 30 September 2011.

This is broken down by financial year as follows:

Financial year	£
2010-11	66,872.90
2011-12	[1]68,648.60

[1] April - September 12

Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74361]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's central records show two instances of transport-related fines being paid by the Department since 2007 at a total cost of £90. In 2007-08 the cost was £30 and in 2009-10 a payment of £60 was made.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73668]

Mr O'Brien: Management Board hospitality finances are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/Our-organisation/Management-board/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75518]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There has been no spend on first class air or boat travel since June 2010. Spend on first class rail travel since June 2010 was £197.

Horn of Africa: Famine

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on famine relief in the Horn of Africa since May 2010. [75351]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The first famine of the 21st Century was declared by the United Nations (UN) in two regions of Somalia on 20 July 2011 and it has since spread to four additional areas.

Since the declaration of famine by the UN the UK has allocated £32.27 million towards aid agencies working in Somalia including in famine affected areas.

Across the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) since 1 April 2010 the UK has allocated £163.82 million to humanitarian organisations.

JUSTICE

Coroner Service

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many submissions his Department received in response to the consultation on the Draft Charter for the Coroner Service. [76158]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice received 135 responses to the consultation from a range of stakeholders including coroners, local authorities, voluntary organisations which support bereaved people, medical specialists, registrars and members of the public.

Prison Service

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what length of contract will be awarded to the successful bidder for future public sector prisons which are put out to tender. [73657]

Mr Blunt: Current proposals are to seek contract lengths of 15.5 years with a break clause at 7.5 years.

Public Bodies Bill

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many submissions his Department received in its consultation on the Public Bodies Bill. [76157]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice consultation on reforms proposed in the Public Bodies Bill closed on 11 October. 2,742 responses have been received. The Department intends to publish its response to the consultation by the end of this year. This will contain a summary of the responses received.

Details of the consultation can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-public-bodies.htm

NORTHERN IRELAND

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75158]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, my Department has not awarded any contracts directly to a third sector organisation.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75159]

Mr Paterson: My Department does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. For example, many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

Since May 2010, my Department has awarded two contracts, one for catering and one for beverages. These contracts were valued at £100,000 and £15,000 respectively.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75516]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, my Department has spent the following amounts on first class travel:

	£
(a) air	0
(b) boat	0
(c) train	662.20

Since November 2010, all travel by Ministers and officials in my Department is by standard class.

PRIME MINISTER

Adam Werritty

Helen Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he was informed of any concerns in respect of Adam Werritty expressed by senior officials of the Ministry of Defence; and if so, on what date he was first informed of such concerns; [75893]

(2) whether he received from *(a)* Sir Bill Jeffrey and *(b)* Sir Jock Stirrup any communication regarding concerns about Adam Werritty. [75894]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the report by the Cabinet Secretary into the allegations against the former Secretary of State for Defence my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox).

This is available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/allegations-against-rt-hon-dr-liam-fox-mp-report-cabinet-secretary

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Speeches

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* civil servants employed in his Office were given responsibility for checking the content of ministerial speeches delivered at the 2011 Conservative party conference. [76030]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers and civil servants carry out their duties in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisors and the Civil Service Code.

Domestic Visits

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Prime Minister when he last *(a)* met a young unemployed person and *(b)* visited a Jobcentre Plus centre. [76032]

The Prime Minister: I have meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals at a variety of locations around the country, including a number of welfare to work providers. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 332.

SCOTLAND

Family Intervention Programme

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* other Government Ministers on the formulation of the family intervention programme for families with multiple problems. [76161]

David Mundell: The programme referred to applies to England only.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Disability

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the proportion of buses which have flat level access for disabled passengers. [75643]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport continues to work to improve physical accessibility to public transport. The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) require all new buses and coaches used to provide local or scheduled services and designed to carry more than 22 passengers to be accessible to disabled passengers.

All existing buses and coaches used to provide local or scheduled services will then have to comply with PSVAR by end dates between 2015 and 2020, depending on vehicle type. At March 2011, 60% of all buses in Great Britain had been issued with a PSVAR accessibility certificate and a further 25% had low floor access but did not hold a PSVAR certificate.

Crossrail Line: Rolling Stock

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with Transport for London and the Mayor of London on the role of Transport for London in leading on Crossrail rolling stock procurement. [75184]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers and officials regularly discuss a variety of Crossrail matters, including rolling stock, with the Mayor of London and Transport for London officials.

Departmental Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings she has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [75716]

Norman Baker: Details of all ministerial meetings with external stakeholders are published quarterly and are available on the DFT website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

I regret that information is not held under the categories requested.

Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any socio-economic considerations are included in her Department's public procurement tenders. [72399]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 10 October 2011]:* The Department may take into account socio-economic considerations during procurement if and where they are relevant to the requirement, where consideration is in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations and the European Treaty Principles of Equality of Treatment, Transparency and Freedom of Movement and where they can be applied in a proportionate, non-discriminatory manner.

This issue has been raised frequently following the Thameslink procurement process. Under the previous Government, the Department did not include consideration of socio-economic factors in the evaluation criteria for the Thameslink Invitation to Tender. Once the Invitation to Tender had been issued, the Department could not then include new evaluation criteria as this would have been contrary to UK and EU procurement law.

As part of the growth review, we are examining whether the UK is applying the EU procurement rules to best effect and managing procurements to maintain competitive supply chains to meet its strategic needs, cost effectively, in the long-term.

Gold-plating

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to implement the Government's commitment to end gold-plating of EU rules. [75965]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* The Government are determined to ensure that disproportionate regulation does not see UK businesses put at a competitive disadvantage compared with their European counterparts.

To this end the Department does not go beyond the minimum requirements of European Directives, unless there are exceptional circumstances to warrant it.

Kirkby-in-Ashfield Railway Station

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger *(a)* arrivals and *(b)* departures there were at Kirkby-in-Ashfield railway station in each of the last five years. [75433]

Norman Baker: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) produces estimates for the number of passengers using stations on the rail network in Great Britain each year based on ticket sales, The estimated number of entries and exits at Kirkby-in-Ashfield station in each of the last five years for which figures are available are shown in the following table:

Estimated entries and exits at Kirkby-in-Ashfield railway station: 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Entries	*Exits*
2005-06	79,487	75,614
2006-07	76,294	73,291
2007-08	70,276	68,937
2008-09	75,490	75,490
2009-10	88,891	88,891

Further information about these estimates can be found in the reports on the ORR website at the following link:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1529

Public Transport: Concessions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many concessionary travel pass holders are registered disabled; and how many such persons used their passes in the latest period for which figures are available. [75864]

Norman Baker: The Department is not responsible for issuing concessionary bus passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes are held by concessionaires who are registered disabled.

The Department has no information about how many eligible disabled people used their concessionary bus pass in the latest period for which data are available.

Railways: Overcrowding

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider the merits of reviewing passenger overcrowding on London to Bristol sections of passenger rail services between London and south Wales. [74026]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State and the Office of Rail Regulation publish statistics on passenger crowding. The most recently published statistics include passenger rail services between London, Bristol and south Wales.

Prior to electrification, and subject to successful commercial negotiations with First Great Western, the Government expect additional carriages to be added to some high speed services on these routes, including to Bristol and south Wales.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider the merits of introducing legislation to eradicate the incidence of passenger overcrowding and passenger standing on rail services. [74103]

Mrs Villiers: Capacity improvement is a key priority for this Government. Significant investment is being made in additional rolling stock and infrastructure works across the UK, including major schemes such as the Thameslink Project and Crossrail.

Careful consideration is also being given to the results of consultation on a new high speed rail network.

The eradication of all overcrowding and all standing on the UK rail network would require a vast programme of additional infrastructure construction and rolling stock procurement, which is not affordable. Alternatively, it would require all passengers to reserve a seat before travelling, which would limit journey opportunities to an inappropriate extent.

Railways: Wales

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Wales regarding the electrification of the Valleys and Cardiff local routes. [75549]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has regular discussions, at both official and ministerial level, with the Wales Office about a range of issues, including electrification of the Cardiff Valley lines. Following her appointment of 14 October 2011, the Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), intends to continue this dialogue.

Rolling Stock

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what future plans she has for the process of procurement of rolling stock. [71801]

Mrs Villiers: The Government's review of public procurement—part of the Government's growth review—is examining whether the UK is making best use of the application of EU procurement rules.

The review will also consider the degree to which the Government can set out requirements and evaluation criteria with a sharper focus on the UK's strategic interest and how the Government can support businesses and ensure that when they compete for work they are doing it on an equal footing with their overseas competitors.

The recent deferral of the issue of Invitation to Negotiate documentation for the Crossrail rolling stock and depot procurement will allow relevant conclusions from the Government's review of public procurement to be taken into account in the tender process.

We will be considering Sir Roy McNulty's recommendations on rolling stock but start from the position that the rail industry should be best placed to lead on rolling stock cascade proposals. The Government's role is primarily focused on ensuring that these represent value for money.

Speed Limits

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has plans to review national speed limits for roads other than motorways. [75427]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 12 October 2011 given to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas), *Official Report*, column 371W.

Waterloo-Reading Railway Line

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to improve the condition of the Waterloo to Reading line between Waterloo and Richmond. [69384]

Mrs Villiers: The condition of the track between Waterloo and Reading is a matter for Network Rail as owners and operators of the rail network.

As part of the High Level Output Specification (HLOS), Stagecoach South West Trains (SSWT) and the Department are currently in discussions to augment more capacity into Waterloo stations, providing more capacity for passengers including those between Waterloo and Richmond. These discussions are subject to value for money and affordability. Assuming that a commercial agreement can be reached between the parties, we hope to make an announcement later this year.

TREASURY

Banking: Asset Purchase

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Bank of England on the use of the Asset Purchase Facility to purchase commercial paper and corporate bonds. [76173]

Mr Gauke: In his letter to the Governor of the Bank of England on 6 October 2011, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), confirmed that the Asset Purchase Facility (APF) "continues to include facilities for eligible private sector assets financed by the issuance of central bank reserves, Treasury Bills and the Debt Management Office's cash management operations that are authorised up to a maximum of £50 billion". Private sector assets which are eligible for purchase by the APF were set out by the Chancellor's predecessor in his letter to the Governor of 3 March 2009. Eligible private sector assets include paper issued under the Credit Guarantee Scheme, corporate bonds, commercial paper, syndicated loans and asset backed securities.

Banks: Competition

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to introduce more competition in the banking sector. [76256]

Mr Gauke: The Government are clear that more competition is needed in the UK banking sector. The Independent Commission on Banking released its final, report on 12 September 2011, including recommendations to improve competition. The Commission's report can be found at:

http://bankingcommission.independent.gov.uk/

The Government accept in principle the Commission's recommendations to improve competition, and will now consider the proposals in more detail.

The Government welcome the Commission's recommendations which build on proposals put forward by the Payments Council in July this year to make it easier for personal customers, small businesses and charities to switch their bank account. The Commission's recommendations set out key requirements for the industry to meet in this important area of work. The Government are clear that the new switching proposals need to be fully implemented by September 2013 and will monitor progress closely through quarterly interim reports.

In addition, preparations for disposals from the state-backed banks are continuing and the Financial Services Authority is continuing to improve the process for new bank authorisations.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75528]

Mr Gauke: Spending by Treasury Ministers and officials on first class travel between 1 May 2010 and 30 September 2011 was £905 by air and £95,532 by train. There was no first class travel by boat.

In May 2010 the Department's travel policy was revised and first class travel is now prohibited unless in exceptional circumstances:

Where train journey is longer than three hours;

Where there are no standard class facilities to accommodate disabled or other special needs requirements under reasonable adjustment guidelines;

Where there are serious security concerns; and

Where the overall cost of the first class ticket is less than the overall cheapest ticket for standard class. Evidence (such as a screen shot from the booking page) must be retained for audit purposes.

Public Sector Finance

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how illiquid assets purchased by the Government are assessed against his fiscal mandates; [76174]

(2) how illiquid assets purchased by the Government are included in the public finances; [76175]

(3) what definitions of liquid and illiquid assets his Department uses in relation to public finances. [76176]

Mr Gauke: The fiscal mandate and the supplementary target are assessed against aggregates from the Public Sector Finances. ONS has published an article which sets out the accounting principles for liquid and illiquid assets in the public Sector Finances in an article The Public Sector Balance Sheet which is available on their website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/elmr/economic-and-labour-market-review/no--7july-2009/the-public-sector-balance-sheet.pdf

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr Burley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has considered the merits of extending the current stamp duty holiday for first-time buyers beyond March 2012. [75977]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor announced at the Budget that the outcome of a review of the stamp duty land tax relief for first-time buyers will be announced in autumn 2011.

VAT: Housing Improvement

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of likely behavioural change by *(a)* consumers and *(b)* the building sector resulting from a reduction in value added tax on residential property renovation and refurbishment. [76169]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 713W, that the figures quoted for the cost of reducing VAT to 5% on home improvements use the conventional assumption that there is no behavioural change as a result of the tax change. In practice, to the extent that the rate reduction from 20% to 5% was passed on to consumers, the price of home improvements would fall, demand for them would increase, and the cost of the reduction would be greater than the conventional figure given in the earlier answer, as the expenditure on reduced rate home improvements would likely be at that expense of expenditure on standard-rated goods and services.

No estimates have been made of the behavioural changes that would be associated with a rate change of this magnitude.

It is doubtful that there would be any significant change in compliance as a result of the rate change. Those that defraud the system typically do not limit the scope of their crime to VAT.

WALES

Agricultural Wages Board

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the body from which farmers and farm workers in Wales should seek guidance on terms and conditions of employment after the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board; [75360]

(2) what meetings she has had with *(a)* representatives of the Welsh farming community and *(b)* the Farmers' Union of Wales on the Government's proposed abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board; [75401]

(3) what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the potential effect of the abolition of *(a)* the Agricultural Wages Board and *(b)* the agricultural minimum wage on the pay levels of farm workers in Wales whose pay and conditions are set by the Agricultural Wages Board. [75402]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and with the farming unions regarding a range of issues that affect the farming community in Wales. Indeed, my right hon. Friend discussed this issue with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), last week.

Assuming Royal Assent for the Public Bodies Bill, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will carry out a public consultation on the future of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales. It is the intention to publish impact assessments on the effects of abolition as part of the consultation exercise.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much members of her departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74940]

Mr David Jones: Since May 2010 members of the departmental management board have claimed a total of £1,670.52.

These costs include all expenses claimed by members of the board discharging their daily departmental duties in addition to claims made by the non-executive board member, primarily relating to reimbursement for travel expenses.

Membership and terms of reference for the board can be found on our website:

http://www.walesoffice.gov.uk/about/management-board/

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has received representations concerning *(a)* the big society bank, *(b)* the Work programme and *(c)* volunteering since June 2011; and if she will make a statement. [75072]

Mr David Jones: On 12 September I hosted a seminar on the big society, which included a question and answer session with the chief executive of big society capital and representatives of voluntary organisations, social enterprises, private businesses and public sector organisations. Written feedback was received from a number of individuals who attended the seminar.

Today I am attending a meeting of the Welsh Grand Committee where Welsh Members of Parliament will discuss the implications for Wales of the Work programme with the Minister for Employment, Department for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling).

No other representations have been received.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72942]

Mr David Jones: In the current financial year to date, the Wales Office has spent £1,020 on new furnishings to replace those that were damaged or worn.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* employers and *(b)* disabled people are made aware of the Access to Work Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [76192]

Maria Miller: Access to Work provides vital support to help disabled people get and keep employment. We want as many disabled people as possible to know this support is available. The recent Sayce review recommended changes that will increase the number of people who are able to benefit from Access to Work and raise awareness about its availability amongst disabled people and employers. A public consultation following the review has just closed and we will be considering ideas and reactions from that consultation and publishing a statement in due course.

During the Sayce consultation period two Access to Work events were held, one in Manchester for third sector organisations and Access to Work Users and a further meeting in London for employers of disabled people. The attendee list at both events was extensive and featured many recognisable names.

Also from 9 December 2010, disabled job seekers have been able to find out immediately if they are eligible for Access to Work support by completing a short online questionnaire at Directgov. If eligible, they are then able to print off a new Pre-Employment Eligibility Letter which will help build their confidence when applying for jobs and can be shown to prospective employers. This delivers the commitments in the coalition programme to reform Access to Work, so that disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need.

Atos Healthcare: Manpower

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people are employed as health care professionals by Atos Healthcare to carry out work capability assessments. [73431]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare hold the records of health care professionals who have declared a disability. This declaration is personal information that relates to a small group of individuals who are not employed by the Department. I am not therefore in a position to release the information requested.

Atos Healthcare: Complaints

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints about employment and support allowance medical assessments conducted by Atos Healthcare were recorded in *(a)* Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency and *(b)* England in each year since 2008. [74575]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare record complaints by Medical Services Centre (MSC). Therefore, data has been provided for Cardiff MSC (the MSC responsible for WCAs in the Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency) and for the nine MSCs located in England (Birmingham, Bootle, Bristol, Croydon, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Wembley).

Region	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*[1]2011*
Cardiff MSC	1	85	119	162
English MSCs	1	1377	1939	1618

[1] To date.

Note:

Only two complaints were received in 2008 as Employment and support allowance assessments only, commenced in October 2008.

Source:

Atos Healthcare Medical Services Information Team.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74328]

Chris Grayling: Current Department for Work and Pensions IT systems do not allow us to determine how many external training courses staff have attended in the last 12 months or the cost breakdown against each course.

The following table outlines the cost to the public purse of external learning and development interventions, since October 2008:

Period	*External L&D expenditure (£)*	*Percentage reduction year on year*
October 2008-September 2009	17,519,220	0
October 2009-September 2010	17,638,463	+0.68
October 2010-September 2011	7,664,078	-56.55

Civil service reforms introduced from April 2011 have begun to change the landscape for how people in the Department for Work and Pensions access learning and development. As a result of these changes significant savings have already been made. By 2012 we will have embedded the cross-government approach to centralised procurement of generic skills training through civil service learning; this will provide even greater value for money for the taxpayer.

Departmental Furniture

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72944]

Chris Grayling: The Department has spent the following on furniture:

	£ million
2010-11	1.096
2009-10	8.0
2008-09	4.3
2007-08	5.0

The Department signed a 20-year PFI contract with Telereal Trillium in 1998 for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge.

The scope of the services provided by Telereal Trillium include the provision of all accommodation in over 1,000 buildings and services, which includes building maintenance, life cycle works, energy/utilities management and environment, internal reorganisation, porterage, security, health and safety, furniture and equipment, catering/security facilities and equipment, catering, waste management, internal and external cleaning, room booking service, and landscape maintenance.

This contract does not cover business-driven change where specific types or brands of furniture are required because of a new business initiative. Therefore, in 2010-11, for example, when Jobcentre Plus initiated the Response to the Economic Downturn project, which converted primarily back of the house space to temporary front of the house space in order to support more jobseekers, the Department had to pay for furniture not included within the contract price.

Departmental ICT

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many bids he received for the tender to create the software to support the universal credit system; [72952]

(2) to whom his Department granted the contract to create the software to support the universal credit system; and on what basis the decision was made. [72953]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently replacing a number of its commercial contracts to develop and maintain the applications for all the core and critical business systems as these arrangements will soon reach their natural end. These applications are used to deliver services to the public, including on-line benefit applications and job searches, as well as back-office functions. Some of these contracts will be involved in the delivery of universal credit (UC).

In response to the invitation to participate in a dialogue (ITPD) issued on 29 January 2010 the Department received 34 bids from 10 suppliers. On 21 May 2010, six short-listed bidders were selected. Following the completion of the dialogue phase of the procurement the Department issued the invitation to submit a final tender (ITFT) on 16 March 2011. The Department received six bids from three suppliers.

Contracts have been awarded to IBM and Capgemini and DWP has extended its current contract with HP. The evaluation criteria included financial and non-financial indicators such as cost, quality and value for money.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of creating the software to support the universal credit system; [72954]

(2) what estimate he has made of the annual cost of maintaining the software to support the universal credit system. [72955]

Chris Grayling: The Treasury has allocated £2 billion investment funding to the Department of Work and Pensions for universal credit over the current spending review period. Plans on the allocation of funding are currently under review as part of work to produce an Outline Business case for next stage approval.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the new software for universal credit is expected to interact with *(a)* the PAYE system and *(b)* other existing HM Revenue and Customs systems. [72957]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will interact with the HMRC PAYE system for the provision of real-time earnings data. DWP will notify HMRC of universal credit claimants and HMRC will provide earnings data to the DWP on a daily basis. This process will ensure claimants who are part of the PAYE system will no longer have to submit earnings information clerically, and will ensure that the right universal credit payments are made.

The universal credit IT system will also interact with the HMRC national insurance systems to ensure DWP contributory benefits and national insurance contributions are paid correctly.

Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75180]

Chris Grayling: The Department routinely assesses current and future threats to its ICT systems and supporting infrastructures, and applies appropriate and proportionate security measures to counter such threats, in line with the prevailing guidance from the central security authorities, and industry best practice.

These measures aim to protect the Department's valuable assets and information. Aside from that, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to make public the details of specific improvements in security arrangements, as to do so would not be in the national interest.

Employment Schemes

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data will be made publicly available on outcomes achieved by each of the Work programme providers; and whether such outcome data will be available by *(a)* provider, *(b)* region, *(c)* hours worked per week by Work programme client and *(d)* employment destinations of Work programme client. [73334]

Chris Grayling: As a minimum, DWP currently expects to publish referral figures from spring 2012 and job outcome figures from autumn 2012. DWP expects to make these publicly available by various breakdowns including age; gender; ethnicity; disability; provider; local authority; parliamentary constituency; and contract package area. However, this is dependant on the availability and quality of data from the administrative systems.

DWP does not plan to publish hours worked per week or employment destination, as the job outcome and sustainment period definitions (in employment and off benefit) do not require them to be measured.

The exact details of what Work programme national statistics we will publish will be available once we have developed more detailed requirements and are confident that the data are of sufficient quality to publish.

An information note detailing the Work programme national statistics release strategy can be found at the following website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=statistical_summaries

Included in the note is an invitation for feedback on the type of statistics users would like to see made available for the Work programme.

As soon as we are confident we have reliable data we will pre-announce an exact release date via this website and on the UK Statistics Authority publication hub. Statistics will be published in the DWP quarterly statistical summary and via an internet based tabulation tool offering users bespoke breakdowns of the headline statistics.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the potential cost of delaying the introduction of the overall benefit cap for *(a)* 13 weeks, *(b)* 26 weeks and *(c)* 52 weeks for all households who become liable over the course of the period in (i) 2013-14 and (ii) 2014-15. [76280]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows the cost of delaying the introduction of the overall benefit cap for new claims by *(a)* 13 weeks, *(b)* 26 weeks and *(c)* 52 weeks.

	13 weeks	*26 weeks*	*52 weeks*
Cost 13/14 (£ million)	10	20	30
Cost 14/15 (£ million)	20	20	40

Figures are rounded to the nearest £5 million and are estimates. Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data; as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the potential cost of delaying the introduction of the overall benefit cap for *(a)* 13 weeks, *(b)* 26 weeks and *(c)* 52 weeks for all households who would otherwise become liable for the restriction but who were eligible for working tax credits in the previous 12 months. [76281]

Chris Grayling: Costings which take account of prior eligibility to working tax credit are not available. The following table shows the cost of delaying the introduction of the overall benefit cap for new claims who have not claimed a DWP benefit in the previous twelve months by *(a)* 13 weeks, *(b)* 26 weeks and *(c)* 52 weeks.

			Cost (£ million)
	13 weeks	*26 weeks*	*52 weeks*
2013-14	5	10	15
2014-15	10	10	20

Figures are rounded to the nearest £5 million. Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data; as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results.

Housing Benefit: Disability Premium

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of single person households which will be affected by the overall benefit cap are in receipt of a severe disability premium in their benefit award. [76279]

Chris Grayling: Receipt of the severe disability premium is dependent on receipt of disability living allowance, constant attendance allowance or attendance allowance.

Since the benefit cap will not apply to households with someone in receipt of one of these three benefits, no single-person household with the severe disability premium will be affected by the benefit cap.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the administrative cost has been to his Department of transferring lone parents on to jobseeker's allowance or another benefit when their entitlement to income support ends according to the age of their youngest child under the previous stages of lone parent obligations in *(a)* November 2008, *(b)* October 2009 and *(c)* October 2010; and what the estimated cost will be to his Department of transferring lone parents on to jobseeker's allowance or another benefit when their youngest child is aged five or six from early 2012. [76282]

Chris Grayling: The lone parent obligations (LPO) policy, which changed the income support (IS) entitlement conditions so that certain lone parents can no longer claim is solely on the grounds of being a lone parent, was introduced in three stages:

for lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over from 24 November 2008;

for lone parents with a youngest child aged 10 or over from 26 October 2009; and

for lone parents with a youngest child aged seven or over from 25 October 2010.

Table 1 shows the total administrative costs of the first three stages of LPO combined. We have not monitored the operational administrative expenditure of each stage of LPO separately, therefore the costs are presented by financial year not by LPO delivery stages.

Table 1: Actual operational expenditure of the first three stages of LPO

	£ million
2008-09	6.2
2009-10	15.4
2010-11	13.5

The June 2010 Budget announced further extension of the LPO policy, to lone parents with a youngest child aged five or over. We estimated in the recent impact assessment, "Conditionality Measures in the 2011 Welfare Reform Bill", that the change will help 20,000 to 25,000 extra lone parents into work in steady state. Table 2 shows the estimated administrative costs of the extension LPO from lone parents with a youngest child aged seven or over to those with a youngest child five or over. These figures are estimated expenditure and may be subject to changes.

Table 2: Estimated operational expenditure of the LPO extension

	£ million
2011-12	2.9
2012-13	21.8
2013-14	11.7
2014-15	8.2

The administrative costs presented in tables 1 and 2 include the costs of additional work focused interviews, benefit administrations and IT changes.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether, for joint claimants of universal credit *(a)* personal independence payment and *(b)* contributory benefits will be paid to the partner who is the recipient of universal credit whether or not they are also the claimant of the personal independence payment or contributory benefit. [76283]

Chris Grayling: The Government recognise the important role that cash benefits such as disability living allowance play in supporting disabled people to overcome the inequalities they face and remain independent. That is why personal independence payment will remain outside universal credit, ensuring it is non-means-tested cash benefit to assist disabled people to meet extra costs associated with disability.

Personal independence payment will be a personal benefit paid to the disabled person or their appointee. In households where two or more claimants are entitled to personal independence payment, individuals will be able to claim the benefit in their own right.

Contributory jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance will normally be payable to the claimant of those benefits. We are considering, in cases where universal credit is greater than the contributory benefit, whether we would make a single payment through the universal credit which would include any contributory benefit entitlement.

Social Security Benefits: Ex-servicemen

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to provide financial support to former armed forces personnel who are not in receipt of resettlement commutation. [73415]

Chris Grayling: Former armed forces personnel who are not in receipt of resettlement commutation may be entitled to social security benefits as long as they meet the relevant conditions of entitlement.

Jobcentre Plus has an Armed Forces Champion in every district to ensure that service families get the best help and support available from people who understand their unique circumstances.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the change in the level of youth unemployment in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency was in the last three months. [75749]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the change in the level of youth unemployment in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency was in the last three months. (075749)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age band and geography are not available.

As an alternative we have provided the change in number of people aged 18 to 24 years who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in Motherwell and Wishaw in the last three months. The change between June 2011 and September 2011 was an increase of 15.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1247W, on universal credit, whether the earnings disregard rule applying to such an individual on a contributory benefit living as a couple, once universal credit is in place, would be the level applicable to a *(a)* single person, *(b)* couple and *(c)* lone parent (i) with and (ii) without children; whether any earnings of such an individual's partner would be offset against the earnings disregard for the contributory benefit; and whether the earnings rule for claimants of carer's allowance will be affected in the same way as for claimants of contributory benefits on the introduction of universal credit. [76284]

Chris Grayling: Entitlement to contributory benefits is assessed on an individual basis. It is intended that this will continue when universal credit is introduced. The Government intend to bring the earnings rules for contributory benefits into line with universal credit, but it is not envisaged that the earnings of the partner would be offset against contributory benefit entitlement.

The carer's allowance earnings rule is not changing as a result of the introduction of universal credit. Current rules will remain in that the earnings limit in carer's allowance means that all entitlement to that benefit is lost if earnings exceed £100 a week net of certain expenses, tax and national insurance contributions. This rule applies to the individual carer's earnings and not to the earnings of a partner.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1247W, on universal credit, at what level of earnings a claimant of contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) would be *(a)* worse off and *(b)* better off under the earnings rules once they are aligned with the universal credit earnings rules as compared to the current ESA earnings disregard of £95 per week; and, if there are any losses for claimants, whether he proposes these will be covered under the transitional protections arrangements for the introduction of universal credit. [76285]

Chris Grayling: The earnings disregard for a household with a disabled person will vary from a minimum of £2,080 per year up to a maximum of £7,000 per year. The impact of the new earnings disregard will depend on the individual circumstances of the claimant and on final decisions made about the universal credit taper rate.

The Government are currently considering what transitional arrangements will apply once universal credit is introduced.

The Department published a policy briefing note relating to earnings disregards and tapers in universal credit on 10 October 2011. This is available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/ucpbn-14-disregards-tapers.pdf

Work Capability Assessment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures his Department requires Atos Healthcare to follow when advising claimants of a review of their benefit case; what timescales his Department has set for each part of the process; and what records his Department holds in relation to such procedures. [73226]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare does not advise claimants of a review of their benefits case. This is the role of my Department.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 10 October 2011

DEFENCE

Defence Equipment and Support: Recruitment

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of recruitment and retention rates for Defence Equipment and Support staff based in *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Bristol. [69386]

[Official Report, 6 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 546W.]

Letter of correction from Andrew Robathan:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 6 September 2011. The original answer failed to take account of organisational changes that took place in April 2011 but which were not recorded on the departmental HR management information system until August. The data provided in the original answer covered the period August 2010 to July 2011 only.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Robathan: Defence Equipment and Support currently employs around 100 civilian staff in Glasgow and around 5,500 civilian staff at its headquarters in Bristol. The significant difference in numbers means that direct comparisons cannot readily be made. In the year to July 2011, about 2.5% of Bristol staff and about 1% of Glasgow staff left through retirement or resignation compared with around 4.5% for Defence Equipment and Support as a whole.

The restrictions on recruitment across the whole of the Ministry of Defence mean that there has only been external recruitment into critical or specialised posts. In the year to July 2011, we recruited around 150 new staff in Bristol and none in Glasgow.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Robathan: As at 31 August 2011, Defence Equipment and Support employed around **200 civilian staff in Glasgow** and **around 6,700 civilian staff at its headquarters in Bristol**. The significant difference in numbers means that direct comparisons cannot readily be made. **In the year to August 2011**, about **2.2% of Bristol staff** and about **0.5% of Glasgow staff** left through retirement or resignation compared with around **4.1%** for Defence Equipment and Support as a whole.

The restrictions on recruitment across the whole of the Ministry of Defence mean that there has only been external recruitment into critical or specialised posts. In the year to **August 2011**, we recruited around **160 new staff** in Bristol and none in Glasgow.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 11 October 2011

DEFENCE

Records of Detention

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the oral statement of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 3294-97W, on records of detention (review conclusions) and the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 549W, on Afghanistan: detainees, what steps UK authorities took to determine the status, under the Geneva conventions, of the two detainees concerned; whether the two individuals were classified by the UK authorities as *(a)* prisoners of war, *(b)* civilians, *(c)* protected persons *or (d)* under any other legal classification; in what detention centres in Iraq the two detainees were held by the US prior to their transfer to Afghanistan; and on what date the two transfers to Afghanistan took place. [58497]

[Official Report, 13 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 371-72W.]

Letter of correction from Dr Liam Fox:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr Tyrie) on 13 July 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Dr Fox *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* These individuals were members of Lashkar-e-Taiba and they were captured as they posed an imperative threat to security in Iraq. They had travelled to Iraq to target coalition forces and the operation launched against them was necessary in order to save lives. Our forces risked their lives to capture such individuals and to ensure the security of Iraq.

They were captured by UK forces in and around Baghdad in February 2004, at the time that the UK was an occupying power in south eastern Iraq, and immediately transferred to US forces in Iraq in accordance with established processes. The reason for this transfer was that the UK did not have its own detention facility close to where the two individuals were captured. The individuals were then held in US detention at Balad and subsequently transferred to a US detention facility in Afghanistan by August 2004.

UK forces did not undertake an assessment of whether or not the individuals were prisoners of war because they were immediately transferred to US forces for detention. As part of the review of the case completed by officials between late 2008 and early 2009, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) considered the status of the detainees and determined that, as there was no information to suggest that they were members of the armed forces of Iraq, they would not have been prisoners of war. They may have been protected persons under the Geneva conventions, subject to certain criteria being satisfied. If they were protected persons, compliance with the Geneva conventions in respect of detainees held by US forces was primarily a matter for the US.

The MOD is co-operating fully with Sir Peter Gibson's Detainee inquiry, the purpose of which was described by the Prime Minister, in July 2010 as to

> "examine whether, and if so to what extent, the UK Government and its intelligence agencies were involved in improper treatment of detainees held by other countries in counter-terrorism operations overseas, or were aware of the improper treatment of detainees in operations in which the UK was involved".

We understand that the Detainee inquiry will consider this case as part of their work.

The correct answer should have been:

Dr Fox *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* These individuals were members of Lashkar-e-Taiba and they were captured as they posed an imperative threat to security in Iraq. They had travelled to Iraq to target coalition forces and the operation launched against them was necessary in order to save lives. Our forces risked their lives to capture such individuals and to ensure the security of Iraq.

They were captured by UK forces in and around Baghdad in February 2004, at the time that the UK was an occupying power in south eastern Iraq, and immediately transferred to US forces in Iraq in accordance with established processes. The reason for this transfer was that the UK did not have its own detention facility close to where the two individuals were captured. The individuals were then **initially** held in US **detention in and around Baghdad, and** subsequently transferred to a US detention facility in Afghanistan **in March 2004**.

UK forces did not undertake an assessment of whether or not the individuals were prisoners of war because they were immediately transferred to US forces for detention. As part of the review of the case completed by officials between late 2008 and early 2009, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) considered the status of the detainees and determined that, as there was no information to suggest that they were members of the armed forces of Iraq, they would not have been prisoners of war. They may have been protected persons under the Geneva conventions, subject to certain criteria being satisfied. If they were protected persons, compliance with the Geneva conventions in respect of detainees held by US forces was primarily a matter for the US.

The MOD is co-operating fully with Sir Peter Gibson's Detainee inquiry, the purpose of which was described by the Prime Minister, in July 2010 as to

> "examine whether, and if so to what extent, the UK Government and its intelligence agencies were involved in improper treatment of detainees held by other countries in counter-terrorism operations overseas, or were aware of the improper treatment of detainees in operations in which the UK was involved".

We understand that the Detainee inquiry will consider this case as part of their work.

TREASURY

Public Sector Pensions

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of financial liability for public sector pensions. [66537]

[Official Report, 18 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 540W.]

Letter of correction from Danny Alexander:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Esher and Walton (Mr Raab) on 18 July 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Danny Alexander: The latest estimate of the total public service pension net liability is £1,133 million, as disclosed in the unaudited summary report of the Whole of Governments Accounts for the year end 31 March 2010 published on 13 July 2011.

The correct answer should have been:

Danny Alexander: The latest estimate of the total public service pension net liability is £1,133 **billion,** as disclosed in the unaudited summary report of the Whole of Governments Accounts for the year end 31 March 2010 published on 13 July 2011.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 13 October 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Nationality

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints against British citizens alleged to have been active Wachmänner guards during the Second World War her Department has received in the last five years. [51449]

[Official Report, 5 April 2011, Vol. 526, c. 809W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Herbert:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hendon (Mr Offord) on 5 April 2011.

The full answer given as follows:

Nick Herbert: We have no record of any such complaints being received.

The investigation of criminal offences, including those under the War Crimes Act 1991, is an operational matter. Arrangements are in place within the Metropolitan police service for investigating allegations of war crimes in liaison with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and other agencies as appropriate. All agencies take the investigation of war crimes seriously and these arrangements remain under review to ensure that they continue to be effective.

The correct answer should have been:

Nick Herbert: In the last five years, the Home Department has received one complaint in respect of alleged Wachmänner guards.

The investigation of criminal offences, including those under the War Crimes Act 1991, is an operational matter. Arrangements are in place within the Metropolitan Police Service for investigating allegations of war crimes in liaison with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and other agencies as appropriate. All agencies take the investigation of war crimes seriously and these arrangements remain under review to ensure that they continue to be effective.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 20 October 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1131-2W, on deportation: offenders, for how many foreign national offenders subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements is their location unknown. [72369]

[Official Report, 13 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 501W.]

Letter of correction from Damian Green:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Witham (Priti Patel) on 13 October 2011. An incorrect figure was given in the first paragraph.

The full answer given was as follows:

Damian Green: There are four foreign national prisoners subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements whom the UK Border Agency is considering for deportation and whose location is unknown.

The UK Border Agency seeks to deport from the UK foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria:

A court recommendation.

For non-EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years, or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (other than possession).

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

There may also be other foreign nationals subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements whose whereabouts is unknown, but are not subject to deportation consideration by the UK Border Agency.

The UK Border Agency's work on relocating individuals subject to deportation consideration is a high priority and they actively pursue individuals whose whereabouts are currently unknown.

The correct answer should have been:

Damian Green: There are two foreign national prisoners subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements whom the UK Border Agency is considering for deportation and whose location is unknown.

The UK Border Agency seeks to deport from the UK foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria:

A court recommendation.

For non-EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years, or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (other than possession).

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

There may also be other foreign nationals subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements whose whereabouts is unknown, but are not subject to deportation consideration by the UK Border Agency.

The UK Border Agency's work on relocating individuals subject to deportation consideration is a high priority and they actively pursue individuals whose whereabouts are currently unknown.

Ministerial Correction

Friday 21 October 2011

DEFENCE

NATO Rapid Reaction Corps

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* number and *(b)* rank is of the UK personnel in HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. [65561]

[Official Report, 18 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 584W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Harvey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Mid Sussex (Nicholas Soames) on 18 July 2011. The civilian figures provided in the table were incorrect.

The full answer given was as follows:

Nick Harvey: The number and rank/grade of UK military and civilian personnel in the HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps is shown in the following table:

Military rank	*Number of personnel*
Lieutenant General	1
Major General	1
Brigadier	5
Colonel	11
Lieutenant Colonel	23
Major/Lieutenant Commander	76
Captain	25
Warrant Officer Class 2	19
Warrant Officer Class 1	6
Staff Sergeant	11
Sergeant	18
Corporal	27
Lance Corporal	13
Civilian grades	
C2	1
D	3
D (Military Support Function)	1
E1	9
E2	1
Industrial Skill Zone 2	1

The correct answer should have been:

Nick Harvey: The number and rank/grade of UK military and civilian personnel in the HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps is shown in the following table:

Military rank	*Number of personnel*
Lieutenant General	1
Major General	1
Brigadier	5
Colonel	11
Lieutenant Colonel	23
Major/Lieutenant Commander	76
Captain	25
Warrant Officer Class 2	19
Warrant Officer Class 1	6
Staff Sergeant	11
Sergeant	18
Corporal	27
Lance Corporal	13
Civilian grades	
B1	**1**
B2	**1**
C1	**1**
C2	**4**
D	**2**
D (Military Support Function)	1
E1	**6**
E2	1
Industrial Skill Zone 2	1